



Photo by Hector Mendez

Gang Related Violence Continues to Rise

Complex Issue Proves Difficult to Resolve

by Gary Byrd

Life in the barrio can be rough. . . day by day another drive by. . . a son dies, a mother cries, cuz thats the way it goes, ya know, when you live your life in the hood.

—rap lyrics performed by A Lighter Shade of Brown at the 1993 Cinco de Mayo celebration in the Mission.

Locked up at Log Cabin Ranch, the juvenile correctional facility, a Mission gang member used an earned home pass to visit his neighborhood on the weekend of May 22. After calling the authorities at his curfew the gang member met some homies for a drive. Later he gunned down four people during a driveby in front of a taqueria on 22nd and Mission.

"This guy snuck out after curfew because peer pressure is strong," said Mario Paz of the Mayor's Criminal Justice Council. "The allure of the streets is stronger than parents."

Shortly after the Cinco de Mayo parade, six blocks of Mission Street turned into a free-for-all as rival gangs used guns, bottles, lead pipes, and sticks to defend their territory and their reputation from impeding gangs. Two were shot and scores of others injured.

Of the 12,000 kids in the Mission, only 4-6% have gang ties. But gang related incidents are spotlighted by the media while the proactive steps taken by the majority of Mission kids go unnoticed. Within that small percentage of gang members, only a handful of gang bangers are responsible for almost two dozen gang related killings in the past year, according to Mario Paz.

"Seven active gangs claim territory in the Mission and most members are Latino," said Sergeant Dave Horton of the Gang Task Force at a recent community meeting. Although the Latino gangs in the Mission go by different names, they are all offshoots of the

Nortefios (Northerners, red) or the Surefios (Southerners, blue).

Most Mission gangs label themselves Nortefios, but this common bond doesn't stop the factions from warring. "Right now it's a free-for-all on the streets," said Alfredo Bojorquez of the Mission's Real Alternatives Program (RAP). "It's not a color thing."

Or a country thing. Latino gangs are often perceived as being from one homogenous culture, but like the Latino culture, there are dramatic geographical and cultural differences. Some gangs are predominately made up of members from Mexico, while others have members from El Salvador, Nicaragua, and other Central American countries. Most often, youth will gravitate toward a gang sharing a similar cultural identity to their own.

Cultural ties with their homelands run deep in Mission gang members even though almost all are US citizens. "About half of the gang members in the Mission were born in the US," said Mario Paz. "The other half gained US citizenship through amnesty laws."

Parents from war-torn countries in Central America bring their children to the United States to escape the brutal killings witnessed in their own countries only to wind up with more of the same in the Mission.

Many of the kids that came from Central America were not behind in school before they left for the US, but the language barrier slowed their learning and frustrated them, so much so that some left the classroom for the streets.

"Some of the gang members are children of war," said Mario Paz. Gang members who are from war-torn countries tend to be more violent and more easily swayed to use a gun to solve differences, suggested Paz.

THE VIOLENCE

At a May 25 community meeting, called by
CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR

New Health Cuts Will Hit the Mission Hard

Poorer Neighborhoods Use Services Most

by Claudia Lunstroth

If Mayor Frank Jordan gets what he's asked for, he may regret it, especially when he has to step over one of the new homeless persons put on the streets by the cuts to the Health Department. Jordan is asking for over \$88 million in cuts to the already suffering Public Health Department budget.

While the entire city will suffer either directly or indirectly from these cuts, the Mission District and other districts with high percentages of poor, uninsured people will hurt the most. A full 21.2% of the hospital's patients live in the Mission.

The large confusion of red brick buildings at 1001 Potrero known as San Francisco

General Hospital (SFGH), is appealing to many Mission residents, even those who have Medicare and therefore access to private care. SFGH does not require money up front (even if you owe money from a previous visit), is very language accessible for people who don't speak English, doesn't ask for immigration papers, and has never cooperated with the INS.

The Mayor first asked the Health Department to cut \$56 million from its current budget, the one that doesn't allow for wheelchairs or timely prescriptions. Then the Mayor asked for \$32 million more in cuts. In his memo to the Health Commission outlining the proposed cuts, Raymond Baxter, Director of Public Health, notes that the cuts will "result in

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Congratulations one and all, once again the greatest multicultural parade ever got greater despite a noticeable drop in high ticket items like sound systems and extravagant floats. (clockwise top left) Mariano Tapia (*Los Motlachines*) adds another parade to his record total (500+); Louise Gabarino (*Escola Nova*) triumphant costume designer; Buena Vista reclaims its Kid's crown while Mas Maker Massive served notice with an award; Fogo no Roupa's Zenia & Valmour are also parade patrons through Valencia Cyclery and Bahia Restaurant; Deana Pellegrini (*Boricuas*) recruited Mission Rotary as float builder; Pat Stallings depicted Escola Nova's magical story including the water spirit who sprinkled her blessings throughout the day as we ended the longest drought in 500 years. Top percussion group from Brazil, *OLODUM* sponsored by Bahia Toursa will be playing the rhythm of the saints this Saturday (6/5/ Oakland Convention Center) while the C Award's Ceremony is held at Cesar's; All Ah We's Barney Blatze finished ahead of world renowned Stephen Derrick (*D'Midas International*) with largest costume ever on the Mission Miracle Mile (13h x 17w x 20') Derrick's pan man celebrates his homeland's instrument invented for Carnival (& our millennium transition?)—the steelpan. Local artist Lichen's *Consumer Slaves* repeats for Carnival Countdown's *Radical Amusement Award* while Wise Fool's *Earth Birth* won the coveted "most media" prize. Great job by producer MECA and the founding sponsor Mission Neighborhood Centers. C.M.Collins

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Gang Problem

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Officer Ray Benson to address the gang issue in the Mission, speakers pointed out the scope of the gang problem but offered few solutions.

"Kids in the Mission are joining gangs in record numbers," said Sergeant Horton. "And in the Mission, retaliation is used to solve problems with other gangs." Horton went on to say that Mission gangs fight for machismo and not for profit.

Drug dealing brings in about thirty dollars a day for the average dealer, according to Mario Paz. "They're not getting rich selling drugs."

On other fronts, the Mayor's Task Force on the Mission is now a month late in delivering their plan for a more healthy Mission to Mayor Jordan. One vital area of their concern is public safety, which encompasses the gang factor.

The Mission's Real Alternatives Program has taken the lead in quelling the gang violence. Through outreach programs, the staff of RAP finds at-risk kids and tries to guide them away from the gang cycle by offering late night basketball and other evening programs.

On June 26, RAP is sponsoring an all-day summit to address the Mission's gang problem. At the summit, department heads from various agencies and community organizers will assess the successes and the failures of the committees formed at last year's summit. The summit's goal was to diminish gang enrollment and violence.

But the summit can only do so much.

"The gang bangers will have to come together to put an end to the violence," said Mario Paz. The efforts made by the government, the police, and the community should be to try and initiate the talks.

But first the gangs must have a reason to talk. "They're disillusioned," said Bojorquez.



"Why not gang bang, they think, we're better off dead."

PAROLEES

Approximately 472 parolees live in the Mission at any given time, according to police records. Also, there are roughly 700 parolees at large in San Francisco many of whom are believed to be in the Mission.

Parolees perpetuate the gang activity and the gang mentality, according to Bojorquez.

The names Norteño and Sureño are drafted from gangs within the California penal system. Upon release from prison, a gang member is notched up in the pecking order because prison time is a status symbol. And parolees sometimes harbor vendettas that have been festering while in jail and they want to get even, creating more violence in the Mission.

"Sometimes when [parolees] come out they have a thorn in their side," said Bojorquez, "and they want to get it out."

Sometimes tentative truces occur between Mission gangs while another gang is on the

prowl. The enemy-of-your-enemy-is-your-friend kind of alliance. The two gangs may hang out and drink beers together while another gang is threatening a hit. But a fight over the smallest matter severs the truce. Some gang alliances are ended abruptly by a home who gets out of prison and has a grudge against the befriending gang.

Even gang fashion is modeled after prison-ware. While behind bars, inmates are given either blue or red clothes. The red and blue gang colors stem from these prison-issue clothes. Baggy trousers and oversized shirts are also straight from the prison system.

With the gang look in fashion, a few designers have gone into the prison system to more closely simulate the prison look. While gang fashion runs its course, it will be difficult for Mission residents to distinguish between gang members, wannabes, and people who are copying a fashion.

Until Mission gang members call a halt to the self-perpetuating violence, Mission residents can only hope they don't catch a stray bullet from the barrel of a gang bangers gun. And rely on police protection.

Deputy Chief Thomas Petrini fumbled the ball on May 3 after the Cinco de Mayo parade when he sent a majority of the troops home early, unaware of the tension building on Mission Street. At sundown the Mission exploded into a riot, and lack of police backup forced officers at the scene to pull back and set up barricades until reinforcements from other areas could arrive.

Adding to the poor police response, the dispatch computer system crashed for 1-4 hours at a time when 240 calls every few minutes were seeking police assistance, according to a dispatcher.

Gangs and gang-related violence in the Mission are a growing problem. Mission residents are wondering where the resources to combat these problems are going to come from at a time of budgetary crisis. This month's summit on the 26th may provide some answers.



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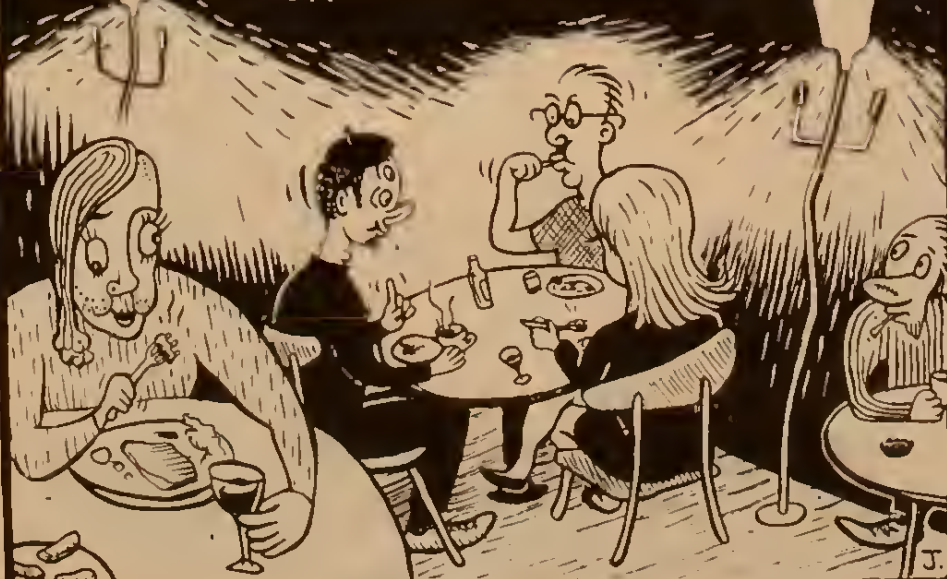
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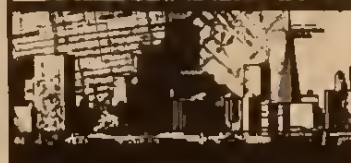
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Hotline Reaches Out

Something New is Shaking at the Epicenter

by Gary Byrd

Bureaucratic nightmares are an integral part of life in the City.

Trying to find an organization to serve your needs often entails phone calls to multiple agencies that can't help and several calls to automated say-nothings.

If you muster the strength to go to an agency, you wait in a long line and are told: Fill this out and stand in that line.

And, of course, that line winds through several corridors and wraps around the building.

Sound familiar?

One Mission-based group, at Valencia and 16th, is attempting to fill this bureaucratic hiatus with a phone-in help line designed to answer a wide variety of questions on topics ranging from social services to political organizations and events.

Located in the back room of the Epicenter Zone, a record store complete with couches, a pool table, an underground zene library and wall-to-wall-to-ceiling music posters, the all-volunteer staff work the Epicenter Switchboard 36 hours a week.

A computerized database makes quick work of locating the right agency or agencies for the phone-in client. Given to the Epicenter Switchboard by the now defunct Haight-Ashbury Switchboard, the database has 63 subject areas with hundreds of listings that are continually updated.

The switchboard has been taking calls since October 1992 and during each three-hour shift receives about six inquiries.

Most callers are looking for homeless shelters and organizations specific to gays and lesbians, but there are some who are coming to visit the City and want to know about the hot spots.

"We have the [telephone] numbers for emergency housing, health clinics, and basic survival information," said Derek Holzer, one of the handful of volunteers. "We have a do-it-

yourself ethic here at the Epicenter."
And they are doing it themselves.

The space for the switchboard is provided by the Epicenter Zone, all of the computer equipment has been donated, and the staff works on a volunteer basis.

The switchboard's database and referral source books list agencies primarily within San Francisco, but as funding picks up and more people use the switchboard they plan to extend the service listings and calling hours.

The Women's Building agreed to umbrella the group with nonprofit status while the Switchboard volunteers write grants proposals for city money which will be used to make the switchboard more visible to the community they serve.

"We get the word out through public outreach, basically flyers and stickers," said Holzer. "And sometimes we are invited to set up booths at [live music] shows."

The switchboard is strictly a referral service and does not provide on-site services (as did the Haight-Ashbury Switchboard with its in-house clinic), but sometimes hearing a voice is medication enough.

One 14-year-old kid called the switchboard on a regular basis just to get a sympathetic ear.

The youth lived in a homeless shelter and made money by turning tricks in the Tenderloin. The kid felt alone and bogged down in the bureaucratic mess of emergency shelters; the switchboard was an outlet for the kid, he could talk with someone who was interested in what he was saying.

Of the handful of volunteers that work the phones, most have had suicide prevention training, but as of yet none have had to utilize their training.

"The only way that Bay Area social service agencies can effectively serve people in need is if the people know that help is available to them," said David Seifert, a Switchboard volunteer. "Many human interest groups in San Francisco are not well publicized, and many of them do not even know about each other. The Epicenter Switchboard is trying to



Photo by Frances Barajas-Lona

DEREK HOLZER TAKES A CALL AT THE EPICENTER SWITCHBOARD

solve this problem."

Hours are Monday through Saturday 12-6 and the number is 431-4600. A recorded message with "survival" phone numbers answers

calls while volunteers are off duty.

The Switchboard volunteers are seeking a professional counselor to lead a seminar in how to deal with troubled callers more effectively. Call 431-4600 for more information.

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Health Cuts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

thousands of individuals no longer receiving services."

One stupefied SFGH department manager took a grimmer outlook: "There will be massive deaths in the streets." She explained that the proposed elimination of 82,767 outpatient visits translates into over 22,000 patients who will not receive care. "Frank Jordan was elected because people were tired of seeing the homeless everywhere. But eliminating public health care is one of the surest ways of contributing to the numbers of homeless people and families," she said.

The Mission's Health Center 1, on 17th Street, is one of four public health clinics in the City not slated for closure. Yes, this is good news for the Mission, but Health Center 1 is already overwhelmed and understaffed. They have no room for all the additional patients who will be sent there from the closed clinics.

"This is worse than a major catastrophe. But I don't know what to call it," said one care provider at SFGH, grasping for the words to describe her anguish. "It's a complete dismantling of the Public Health Department. People here are predicting the department will be closed down in anywhere from a few months to a few years."

These predictions are based on the idea that the cuts to the Department will, in the not-so-very-long run, cost more and more. A major source of revenue for the hospital is Medicare/Medical payments. The fewer the patients seen, the less the Medicare/Medical money coming in.



SFGH WAITING ROOMS ARE ALREADY OVERCROWDED WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO PLACE ELSE TO GO FOR HEALTH CARE. NEW BUDGET CUTS MAY MEAN THEY HAVE NO PLACE TO GO PERIOD. Photo by NAJIB JOE HAKIM

Timely treatment is a requirement of many payment plans and this is already a problem for SFGH. The proposed provider and administrative cuts will only make the lines longer, the waits for service more interminable.

"What kind of a hospital is this?" one worker at SFGH lamented. She went on to explain that there are only a few wheelchairs and gurneys for a hospital that serves thousands of people a day; that patients on

intravenous tubes have to wander the halls by themselves looking for the diagnostic clinics; that patients just released from hospital care usually have to wait hours for their prescriptions and sometimes are told to come back in a few days.

Both administrative and direct patient services are slated for drastic cutbacks at a time when more and more people don't have private or HMO health care and must depend on public services. In addition to outpatient services, also slated for the knife are mental health and substance abuse services, rape treatment services, diagnostic services, and family medicine and nutrition services.

"There are answers to the City's financial crisis," said a spokesperson for the SF Coalition for Public Health Services, "raise funds. Stop listening only to corporations and homeowners in the Sunset."

The Coalition has been fighting cuts to health services for the past three years (cuts to human services having become a chronic condition in our society). They are a broad-based organization that recognizes the financial crisis in San Francisco. Accordingly, they, as other activist organizations in the past have, propose that the City use progressive methods to raise funds rather than saving money by cutting much needed and morally required services.

If you would like to offer support to the Coalition for Public Health Services, call 673-8755. They can tell you who to call, where to write, and when to show up for public hearings on the budget and make your voice heard.



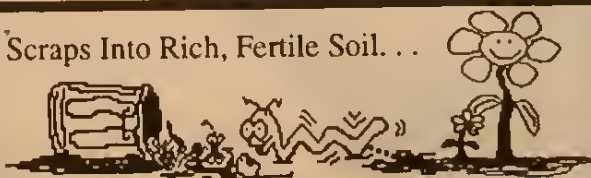
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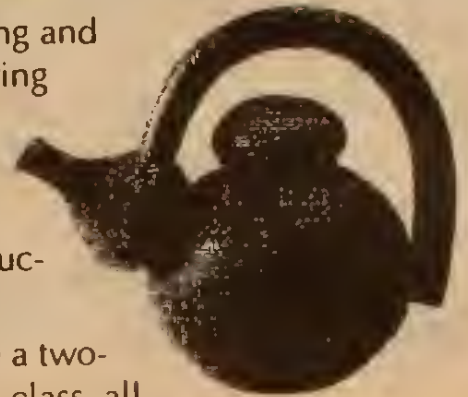
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by andy solow

Curfew is Constitutional

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to see that the youth of San Francisco are in trouble. The entire City has been stricken by a plague of graffiti and drugs, alcohol, all night raves, gangs, and violence that seem to be the recreational activities of choice.

As usual, education, recreation, and jobs are the most needed and least funded alternatives to these antisocial behaviors; but a strict curfew law, though not a panacea, would certainly help to mitigate many of these problems.

San Francisco doesn't have a decent curfew law because the bleeding heart liberals who have been running this town (until recently) believe that curfew is synonymous with racism. On the contrary, a properly drafted curfew law that requires children who are under 18 to be off the streets by 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday nights and by midnight on weekends and holidays, will pass "constitutional muster." Racism is not an issue unless the curfew law is enforced selectively.

Under the current San Francisco curfew law, children 13 years old and younger are prohibited from being on a public street or in

any other public place between the hours of 12 midnight and 5 a.m. This means that children who are 14 or older can be out 24 hours a day except where otherwise prohibited (i.e. "Park closed 10 pm to 6 am").

Federal Case Law

A Washington D.C. District Court in Waters v. Barry (1989)¹ clearly explains the issues that must be considered in drafting and applying a curfew law. In that case, the District Court issued a restraining order preventing the District of Columbia's curfew ordinance from being enforced on the grounds that its constitutionality was questionable. The District of Columbia's curfew ordinance in Waters v. Barry was compared to the Middletown Pennsylvania curfew ordinance which was approved by the United States Supreme Court in Bykofsky v. the Borough of Middletown (1976)².

The San Francisco Ordinance is drafted like the Middletown Ordinance, and even if it was amended as described herein, it should

pass "constitutional muster". The following factors were considered:

1. The D.C. ordinance exempted only minors accompanied by their parents (overruled); the Middletown Ordinance (like the San Francisco Ordinance) allowed minors to be out with their parent or guardian or the parent or guardian of another minor.

2. The Middletown Ordinance (upheld) made an exception for minors occupying the sidewalk in front of their own homes while the D.C. Ordinance made no such exception (overruled); the San Francisco Ordinance excepts streets and lawns immediately adjacent to the minor's home, or that of a minor's relative.

3. The "reasonable necessity" exception in the Middletown Ordinance was more flexible and granted greater leeway to account for emergencies than the D.C. Ordinance allowed; the San Francisco Ordinance allows for "emergencies".

4. The Middletown curfew ordinance allowed the youths to obtain a permit authorizing night-time activities while the D.C. Ordinance did not allow such exceptions; the San Francisco Ordinance provides for the express permission of the parent, which can be verified in writing or by a telephone call.

5. The Middletown Ordinance contained an exception for minors "exercising First Amendment Rights", i.e. exercise of religion, freedom of speech, and the right of assembly, while the D.C. Ordinance did not allow these exceptions. The San Francisco Ordinance allows for this First Amendment exception.

6. The D.C. Ordinance did not authorize the Mayor to suspend the curfew short of its expiration date should circumstances warrant, whereas the Middletown Ordinance did pro-

vide for this. The San Francisco Ordinance should be amended to allow the Mayor to suspend it.

Cautioning against the arbitrary abridgment of the civil rights of the poor, Waters v. Barry, supra³, warns that "...The very concerns that make safe streets so important here (D.C.), of all places, demand that safety not be achieved by brutally sweeping the streets of people." Waters v. Barry, supra, also emphasizes that the outdoor areas of public housing projects including streets, sidewalks, parks, or other outdoor public places can not be arbitrarily singled out as areas for arrest.

However, this does not prevent San Francisco from enacting a curfew law that is considerably tougher than the one currently in effect as long as the revised law meets the Middletown standards and is enforced equitably.

California Case Law (In re indicates juvenile proceeding)

1. In re Frank O. v. People (1988)⁴ held that the Long Beach curfew was void for vagueness where it prohibited "innocent idling by minors after 10 p.m." The Court held that "mere presence" ordinances applied to juveniles have been held unconstitutional as "an arbitrary invasion of...inherent personal rights" and lack "any real or substantial relationship to the primary purpose of promoting the welfare of juveniles". The Court looked toward the United States Supreme Court case which gave adults constitutional rights in aimless idling, Papacristou v. City of Jacksonville (1972)⁵. Papacristou held that aimless idle stops, pauses, and purposeless distraction are constitutionally protected activities and where the curfew ordinance was applied to adults, the law violated their constitutional rights.

For children, however, curfew ordinances have been held constitutional when applied at night for the children's protection and to reduce juvenile crime:

The case In re Frank O., supra referred to In re Nancy C. as a valid example of a constitutional application of a curfew ordinance because the prohibition had contained reasonable exceptions; i.e. allowing minors who were patronizing a theater or restaurant or returning home from a dance or recreational activity to be out after 10 p.m.

2. The case In re Nancy C. (1972)⁶ upheld the arrest of a young female after 10 p.m. seen engaged in a "prostitution stroll". This case involved a Sacramento Curfew Ordinance which prohibited children under the age of 18 to be out on public streets unaccompanied by parents or another person having their custody, unless there is an emergency or the juvenile is returning home from a meeting or recreational activity.

3. The case People v. Trantham (1984)⁷ upheld a park closure ordinance, prohibiting entry, remaining and staying in a park between 10:30 p.m. and 5 a.m. The ordinance was found to have a reasonable State interest and was constitutionally valid.

CONCLUSION

Where the purpose of a juvenile curfew is to protect children and promote children's welfare; and where that ordinance is designed to meet a crisis or emergency situation; and where broad exceptions are written into the curfew law, the Courts will uphold that law.

A strict but reasonable curfew law is as sensible as seat belts and our City needs one now!

Citations

¹ Waters v. Barry (Dist. Ct. D.C. 1989) 711 F.Supp. 1121

² Bykofsky v. the Borough of Middletown (1976) 429 U.S. 964

³ Waters v. Barry, supra 711 F.Supp. at 1123

⁴ In re Frank O. v. People (1988) 201 Cal.App.3d 1072

⁵ Papacristou v. City of Jacksonville (1972) 405 U.S. 156

⁶ In re Nancy C. (1972) 28 Cal.App.3d 747, 105 Cal.Rptr. 113

⁷ People v. Trantham (1984) 161 Cal.App.3d Supp. 1 208 Cal.Rptr. 535

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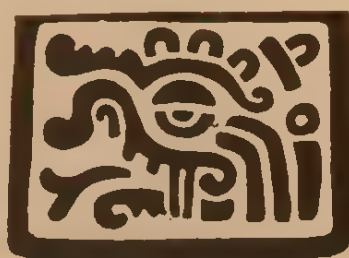
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When Will We Reach Critical Mass ?

by Michael Ceaser

What is Critical Mass?

Is it 300 bicyclists, 500, 1000? And what will happen when San Francisco's bicyclists reach it? Will two-wheel transportation suddenly become the transportation mode of choice, and will car drivers feel as lonely and uncomfortable on the city's streets as bicyclists do now?

Those are the questions which San Francisco's bicyclists are attempting to answer by riding home en masse up Market Street on the final working Friday of every month.

For the ride I attended, the riders began gathering on Justin Herman Plaza around 5:00 pm. It is a social time, for renewing friendships from past Critical Masses. Most of the riders don't appear to be mainstream downtown workers, as dreadlocks and ponytails are popular. But a few ties, and even briefcases, are in sight.

About 6:00 it feels right, and, with a cheer, the apparently unorganized mass of riders suddenly adopts a direction and begins surging up Market street, a flowing crowd of pumping knees and blowing whistles, sparkling with flashing safety lights.

Within the group, it is a joyous sensation to be surrounded by a streetfull of living, moving human bodies instead of dangerous steel. I can actually talk with the person traveling next to me, and our voices are not drowned out by roaring of internal combustion.

Pedestrians and bus riders turn and stare at the phenomenon. For once, the commuters are louder than their vehicles, and there is no carbon monoxide in the street—or in the lungs.

As Critical Mass flows joyfully up Market Street, even some automobile drivers appear to be entertained, giving the thumbs up sign and yelling 'right on' through their windows, although, significantly, none of them are abandoning their cars by the side of the road. Others, however, aren't responding as cheerily to temporarily losing their supremacy on the street. One couple, peering anxiously at their



watches as they inch along behind the riders, insist that they are bicyclists, too, but that they would feel much more positive about the mass commute if they didn't need to be at their class in ten minutes. A cabbie feels less ambivalent as he honks his horn and yells out his window, "These guys don't obey any of the traffic laws."

It isn't true that Critical Mass riders don't stop at red lights—they do, but then they ride right on through, anyhow.

Soon the ride makes a pair of side trips, first around Union Square and then the Civic Center, flaunting their resource-consciousness and low-cost transportation right in the respective centers of conspicuous consumption and profligate overspending.

Finally, the riders turn off onto Valencia Street and pedal right into the Mission's own Zeitgeist bar, which has space for parking

dozens of bicycles on its back patio.

Although fun is what draws riders to Critical Mass, the participants are not shy about their political agenda—down with the automobile. At the gathering on Justin Herman Plaza somebody was passing out 'Earth Violation Tickets' for auto windshields, one rider had turned his bicycle into a rolling billboard proclaiming 'Cars Hurt the Earth,' and some anonymous persons had constructed a half-size sculpture of a bicyclist colliding with a car's open door—every rider's daily fear. Later, on its way up Market, the group chanted 'two wheels good, four wheels bad.'

Chris Davies, the one carrying the anti-car billboard, said that he bikes "for ecological reasons and for the pure joy of it." His personal goal is to shift a few attitudes toward bicycling, because while searching for work in his field, speech therapy, he has been frustrated by anti-bicycle prejudice. "People resist believing that my bike can get me from job to job, even though it is perfectly practical," he explains.

This was a first Critical Mass for Tim English. He pedals across town every day, so bicycling conditions are very important to him. He hopes that Critical Mass will make a difference just because, "it looks like so much fun that maybe it will encourage drivers to get out of their cars."

Yet, despite its pro-bicycle agenda, the Critical Mass ride has not generated unanimous support, even from within San Francisco's bicycle community. At the recent meeting of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC), which advocates for better bicycling conditions, members debated a declaration of

endorsement of the ride for more than an hour, and then finally watered it down to a statement of only 'support.'

The cause of the ride's controversy is hostility toward automobiles, which a few participants have acted out by hitting car hoods and making hostile gestures.

Many members of the bicycle community feel that this behavior does more harm than good to the cause. David Cohen, coordinator

of Auto-Free Bay Area Coalition, says, "We're at a most powerful moment during the ride. Banging on cars will only alienate car drivers without accomplishing anything."

Chris Carlson is modest about being the source of such a successful idea, explaining, "I only said something which was in everyone's mind already. I just went to an SFBC meeting and asked: why don't we all ride home together one Friday each month?"

Since Carlson launched it in September, Critical Mass has grown rapidly, from sixty riders that first time, to 100 in November, 250 in February, and 350 in May.

The name comes from the Chinese movie "Return of the Scorchers," which showed how bicyclists in that traffic-signalless nation cross intersections: They wait until enough of them have gathered—a critical mass—and then burst through, forcing cross-traffic to stop.

The political content of the ride is fine with Carlson, but he explains that his purpose is broader: to create "an open space without any particular direction." For him the ride is a tool for remaking a culture which he feels lacks freedoms. "This society doesn't give us choices, so everybody participates in jobs which are useless or destructive," he explains. The key for him is open public space because "there's so little opportunity to be out in public discussing issues. The ride is much more real than the bogus political shit."

And, because we have no choice but to do particular things in this society, Critical Mass participants shouldn't act hostilely towards drivers. "That might be me in my car next," says Carlson, who owns two of them.

Will the Critical Mass ride make a difference? Only time will tell. But this writer found that it definitely does change peoples' attitudes—at least for five minutes a single Friday afternoon each month.

Critical Mass is now going strong with branches in the East Bay, Santa Cruz, and New York City (NEW YORK CITY?!).

When will Critical Mass reach 'critical mass': next month? The month after? The month after that?

And, more importantly: Will you be there to take part?

(The next ride will be on Friday June 25th. Call the SFBC at 751-BIKE or Auto Free at 510-849-0770 for info.)

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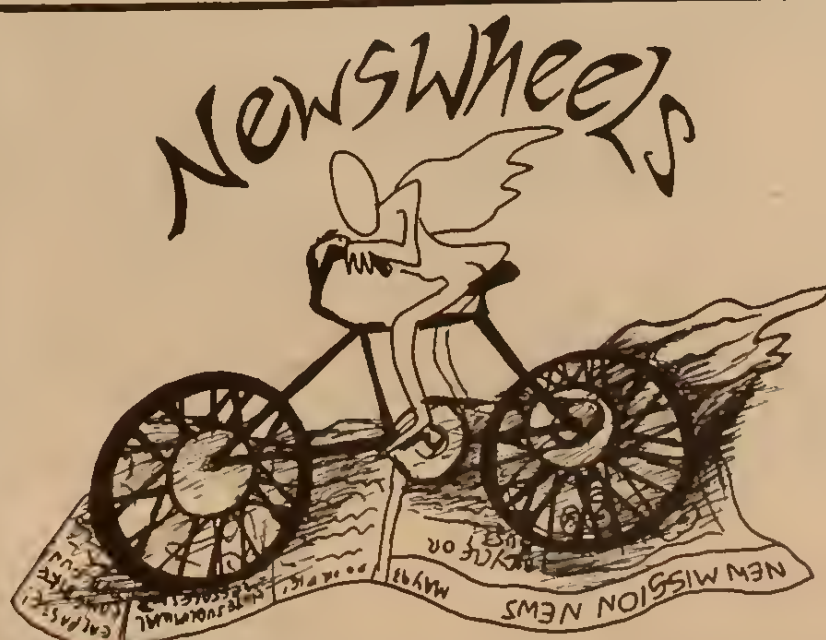
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MISSION INSIDER



BY LISA HAMBURGER

STAYING FIRED-UP

...WITHOUT GETTING BURNT

In addition to the individual stories of great generosity and heroic volunteerism, there is a whole cadre of people who make a career of trying to do right by others.

The non-profit sector was established as an alternative to government implementing projects. The notion was to make public projects more accessible by administering them by and through the community they served.

Non-profits are also able to receive private funds directly and, thus, could channel them for specific projects.

The non-profit operates under bylaws, which express a mission statement. The mission is not meant to be achieved, but rather aspired to. Goals and objectives are re-established periodically to better guide the non-profit toward the mission. A board of directors oversees that the non-profit does in fact move increasingly closer to the mission.

Who are the staffers working for non-profits?

Most non-profits staffers are dedicated to a higher goal of public service. At some time in their lives they, or someone they know, benefitted by someone else's kindness.

Some staffers are politically motivated, feeling that they can do good for others, without overcharging. Most staffers are underpaid 15% to 35%, as compared to employment in the for-profit sector.

The salary sacrifice is well worth it to many who would otherwise spend the increase in funds on weekly dry cleaning and \$200 suits and shoes.

Non-profits also provide a training ground to learn new skills. Many staffers have a level

of responsibility that is reserved only for upper management in other business sectors.

In return, staffers generally want only two things, appreciation and seeing their projects through to completion. It is, in fact these two rewards which gets and keeps staffers fired-up about their work.

There is, however, a potentially severe down side to working in non-profits. Burnout is the single greatest cause of professionals leaving their careers behind.

After years of dedication, it is not unusual for a burnt-out staffer to just pick up one day and leave it all behind, regardless of the resume consequences. Others are sometimes required to go on extended leaves to regain perspective and enthusiasm.

Why is burnout so common place? There are three basic reasons, government bureaucracy, limited resources and collaborations.

Much has been and can be written about the plight of people trying to access government services. Generally, the stories center around a bureaucrat who seemingly doesn't care, or the many forms to fill out or an endless stream of "you need to call..." without ever getting an answer.

Dealing with government is only an occasional misfortune among individuals, but for the non-profit staffer it's a vocation.

In addition to the system, limited resources produce nearly unbearable stress. For every program application funded, 8 to 10 other grants applications are rejected.

Collaborations also excise their toll. In for-profit business there is an axiom about not having any partners unless you absolutely have to and you have money to pay for a lawyer. In non-profits, collaborations are the life blood.

The non-profit staffer often works with 3 to 6 other non-profit staffers from other corporations, each with their own opinion about how to best achieve the solution. Decision-making which aspires to democratic principles in the face of immediate deadlines, sharing the drudgery of writing and fund raising, the credit and the blame, are ongoing sources of anxiety.

While burnout is almost inevitable in the light of an unachievable mission and the reasons mentioned here, when a staffer successfully completes a project it's a high that can't be beat.

Here is a short sampling of three projects, which I hope will inspire you to get fired up:

You've probably noticed traffic backed up on Valencia, near 16th, over the past month. That's because Plaza del Sol, the newest affordable housing project by Mission Housing Development Corp. is under construction.

Plaza del Sol will provide housing for 58 families (about 300 people), create over 50 construction jobs of which at least 12.5% will go to Mission District residents and overall

50% will go to San Franciscans.

The Mission Neighborhood Waldorf Kindergarten, is an innovative curriculum which will be available on a sliding scale to Mission District children, if the necessary funds can be raised. The first fund raiser will be a showing of Black to the Promised Land on June 5th, noon, at the Roxy.

The Centro del Pueblo, a jointly owned, non-profit, multi-service building is on the road to success. They would like to express their thanks to all who have donated funds. Only \$20,000 is left to go to cover cash flow needs this year.

For more information on any of these projects please call 864-6432.

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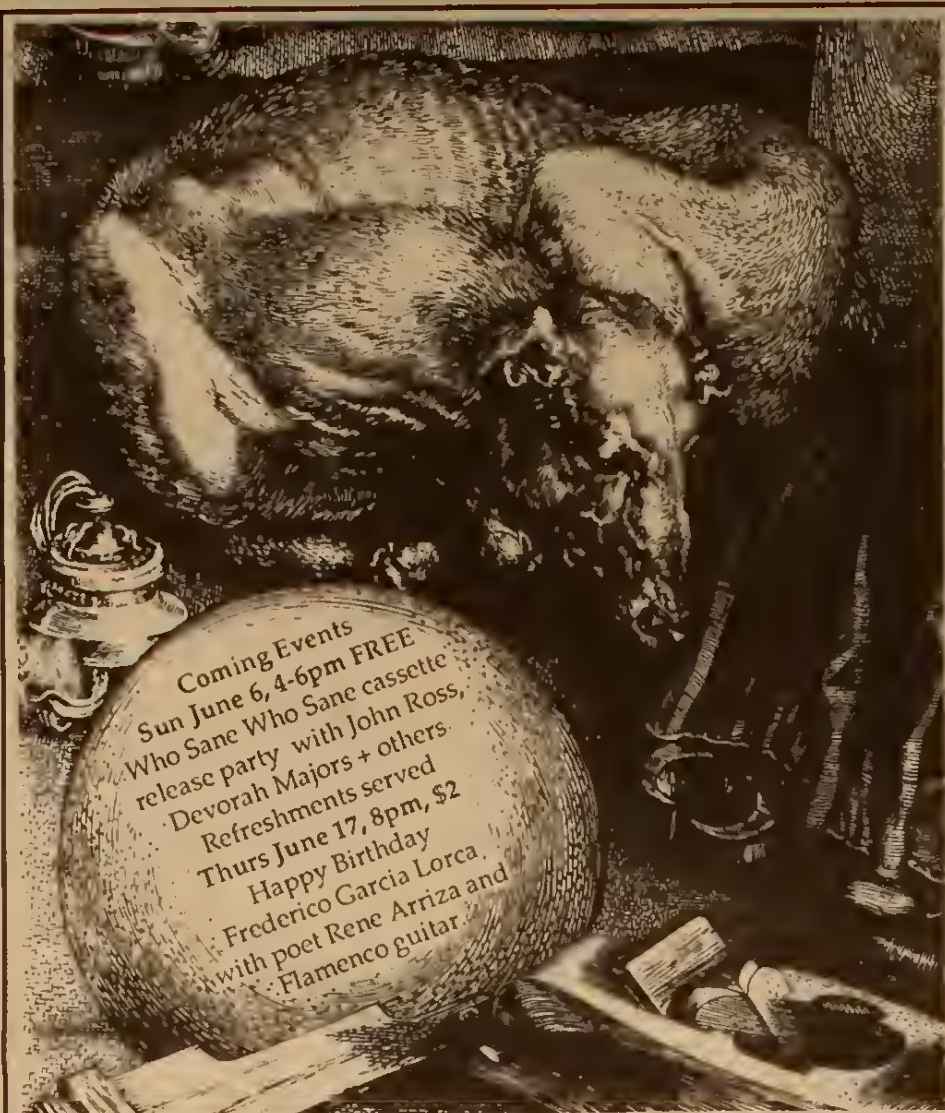
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Soccer Field Update

by Andy Solow

The San Francisco Mission Youth Soccer League (MYSL) Kickoff is coming up on Saturday, June 19, at 10 AM at Rolph Park (@ 26th & Potrero). There will be a brief opening day ceremony.

MYSL is a new member of the California Youth Soccer Association North (CYSA-N) District I. Funded by Prop J, in combination with the CYO, PAL, S.F. Viking, and Old Mission Road youth soccer leagues, MYSL will make it possible for San Francisco youth to play soccer year round.

MYSL still needs referees and assistance with league operations. If you can help, please call Juan Gonzalez at (415)878-1170.

On Tuesday, May 25, the San Francisco Board of Education voted unanimously to support the soccer field proposed for Dolores Park.

The proposed field would be non-regulation size (50 x 90 yards) and would require a

minimal amount of grading, the installation of an irrigation system and new grass. Bleachers, fences, concrete retaining walls and lights are NOT part of the proposal.

Because they violated the City Charter the last time that they met, the Rec Park and City Planning Commissions have been forced to convene another joint hearing on Thursday, June 10 at 1:30 PM at City Hall in Room 282. Public testimony will be taken.

Supporters of the Dolores Park soccer field proposal include: Pat Aramendia and Lupe Arabolas, Mission High School; Monsignor John O'Connor, Mission Dolores; Andreina Gualco and Frank Flores, Mission Dolores School; Everett Middle School; St. Charles School; the Dolores Park Coalition; the Mission Youth Soccer League; Mitchell Salazar, RAP; Margaret Brodtkin and Frank Lopez, Coleman Advocates; Andrew Scott and Mary Harden, Mission YMCA; the S.F. Police Commission; Chief of Police Anthony Ribera; Supervisor Angela Alioto; and Mayor Frank Jordan.

Project Read Celebrates 10th Anniversary



This year marks the tenth anniversary of Project Read, the adult literacy program of the San Francisco Public Library, which has improved the reading skills of more than 2,500 English-speaking adults in San Francisco. Project Read invites the Mission community to share in the celebration on June 24th, noon to 2 pm, at the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street. The Tenth Anniversary Luncheon will feature guest speaker Anna Chavez, KPIX Channel 5 Anchorwoman, music by Grupito Azul, and lunch prepared by Manos Sabrosas.

"Reaching the ten-year milestone is certainly something to celebrate," says Ana Linder, Project Read Coordinator. "But even

more important is the opportunity to recognize the truly outstanding work of our students and tutors." Project Read matches English-speaking adults seeking basic reading and writing skills with volunteer tutors. The pairs meet once a week for two hours in locations throughout the city.

Unfortunately, 80,000 English-speaking adults in San Francisco still find it difficult to read a newspaper. Anyone who wants to learn to read or refer another adult to the literacy program can call Project Read at (415) 557-4388. Project Read is also recruiting volunteer tutors from those communities with the highest numbers of Project Read students particularly African-American and Latino communities.

Rigoberta Menchú at the Mission Cultural Center

Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú, a Quiché Maya, visited the Bay Area last month to open the doors to the Vincente Menchú Foundation, an organization which fights for human rights in Guatemala.

"(In Guatemala) you're either clandestine or you're a guerilla," Menchú told reporters at a press conference held at the Mission Cultural Center. "Everything is either black or white. This polarized attitude has caused many deaths and forced millions to flee the country."

While here in the Bay Area, she received the Berkeley Medal from the University of Berkeley's International House, the highest honor the campus can bestow.

Menchú, who has lived in exile since 1981, has committed her life to denouncing the injustices and inhumane policies committed against her people. Guatemala has been embroiled in a civil war for more than 32 years and has the highest rate of human rights violations in the hemisphere.

According to the Guatemalan News and Information Bureau (GNIB), more than 150,000 people have been murdered, 45,000 "disappeared," and 440 villages destroyed.

Currently, the TPS Coalition for Guatemalans is launching a national campaign to urge Attorney General Janet Reno to grant Temporary Protective Status (TPS) to Guatemalans. This status would enable

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The Vincente Menchú Foundation, with offices in Berkeley, Mexico, and Guatemala,

was named in honor of Menchú's father, who was killed during an anti-government protest in 1980. Says Menchú of her Nobel Peace Prize, "This award is not for me, it is for my people."

Liquor License Limits Proposed

This month San Francisco Supervisor John Shelly's zoning restrictions on Mission liquor selling establishments will finally be put before the Board of Supervisors. The proposed ordinance has been the topic of discussion at a number of community meetings over the past few months but was held up in the City Attorney's Office where the final crossing of t's and dotting of i's proceeded at the usual deliberate pace of all things lawyerly.

The new law will not affect existing on or off sale licenses but will make it nearly impossible for the total number of businesses selling booze to increase beyond the current level, a level those in favor of the rezoning claim is the highest in the state. The only exception would be restaurants serving beer and wine with meals. Neighborhood organizations, most notably the Liberty Hill Association, have battled alcohol establishments for years on a case by case basis but this has proved to be an exhaustive and costly approach. Shelly's legislation would settle the issue in a comprehensive and presumably final manner.

The Shelly proposal would require new

businesses wishing to sell liquor in the Mission to apply for a Conditional Use Permit, an especially difficult piece of certification to obtain and one which can be easily torpedoed by community groups. Conditional use permits must also be renewed every five years unlike liquor licenses which have a certain administrative immortality.

In a roundabout manner, this constitutes a moratorium on new alcohol vendors in the Mission, the roundabout manner being necessary because only the State has the right to license or unlicense liquor sellers. The City Attorney's Office has determined that this touchy jurisdictional issue with the State can only be satisfactorily resolved if Mission residents come forward and testify to the seriousness of alcohol related problems in the district. On this point, Shelly's ordinance will pass or fail, so advocates of the rezoning are gathering their forces for public hearings that will probably take place about mid-month.

For more information call Supervisor John Shelly at 554-4005.

Victor Miller

Little Red Real Estate War

Current and former members of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA) are involved in a heated court fight over a Mission District building and a San Francisco based publishing company. This may be the Party's last hurrah before political oblivion. The Mission property in dispute is 522 Valencia St. that until February 1992 served as the CPUSA's Northern California headquarters and site of the Book Center, a leftist book store operated by the party.

Attorney's for the CPUSA claim that the 522 Valencia Corporation that now holds title to the Valencia building and the Pacific Publishing Foundation are part of the CPUSA and are made up entirely of renegade party members who have unlawfully seized party assets and real estate. To prove this point CPUSA lawyers are demanding that both the 522 Valencia Corp. and Pacific Publishing identify any past or present members of the Communist Party USA who are part of their organizations. In other words, the Communist Party is denouncing these two enterprises as communist fronts and asking the old McCarthy Era question, "Are you now or have

you ever been a member of the Communist Party." What is most objectionable to many former Party members is the attempt to force them to reveal the names of others affiliated or previously affiliated with the Communist Party, the "naming of names".

Former head of the Party for Northern California Kendra Alexander was, before her death in a fire at her home last month, the chief defendant in the dispute. Alexander had intended to resist all pressures to "name names". "It hurts my heart that the Communist Party USA would attempt to compel me by court order to name names. Many communists and non-communists went to jail for refusing to answer about other people's membership..." she said at a May 12 press conference.

As the little red real estate war continues, the Book Center storefront empty since May 1992 will be getting a new non-political occupant, Abandoned Planet Books, which, except as a commercial tenant, is not involved in the property battle. Nonetheless, given that communism is a philosophy that has apparently abandoned the planet, the name seems appropriate.

Victor Miller



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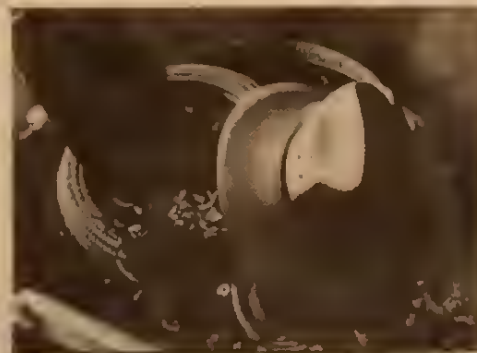
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In my last article, the News looked at a few Modest Proposals (aka MPs) that might affect the short-term future of the City and the neighborhood. But however things shake out, and whoever's atop the purple unicorn when the organist turns away, sick, the earthquake strikes and the carousel tumbles off the pier, certain longrange problems of land use, crime and the economy (to name a few) will command the attention of authorities.

We'll take a few more of these up here and in issues to come, beginning with...

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT in the MISSION

It is impossible to consider the economy of the Mission apart from

that of the City, the state, and the nation. Why does the stock market continue to go up while the stated unemployment rate goes up to 12% in California and the real figures (counting those disqualified from receiving benefits) is closer to 30% or, in the Mission, 40 or even 50%? It is because the United States (not unlike the rest of the developed world but with a much flimsier "safety net") has deliberately followed an economic policy of using technological innovation to render most of its citizens obsolete while implementing political policies to hasten the pauperization of these surplus Americans.

In the long term, of course, there will be a complete social and economic collapse as the number of Americans undisplaced by machine or overseas slave labor shrinks below that level of consumers with money needed to maintain the system. The response of American political and economic leaders who control the nation's wealth (most of whom are elderly) is: We Don't Care! The American moral vacuum, which took off at the start of the nuclear age, grew substantially with the King and Kennedy assassinations, and reached a crescendo in the Reagan/Bush era, now encompasses even the children and grandchildren of the rich and powerful as its potential victims. Our national economy is that of the crack addict or of the religious fundamentalist who fears neither debt nor environmental ruin because Jesus surely will come next week or next year to end the world.

Any attempts at rebuilding the Mission's economy should occur with a clear knowledge that help from above is as problematical as the Second Coming. As for the Northeast Mission Industrial Zone, the present contest is between manufacturers who've already realized that American longshoremen will unload (and American consumers will buy) products fashioned at gunpoint for pennies a week in Chinese, Indonesian, or Salvadoran prison camps, public and private housing developers who lack financing, artists devoid of same who also lack internal consensus, and a University of California system, also losing money, that nonetheless feels the Mission should jump at

America while dumping Americans on the scrap heap should be accompanied by the provision of alternatives such as retail outlets that sell only American made goods and possibly imports from countries in which fair and effective labor laws exist. Perhaps an even narrower focus could be maintained by using some of the empty storefronts on Mission Street to sell the wares of local companies that follow fair employment practices (Ben Davis pants, for example, or Just Desserts) while refusing to carry those of runaways like Levi Strauss or Kilpatrick's Bakery.

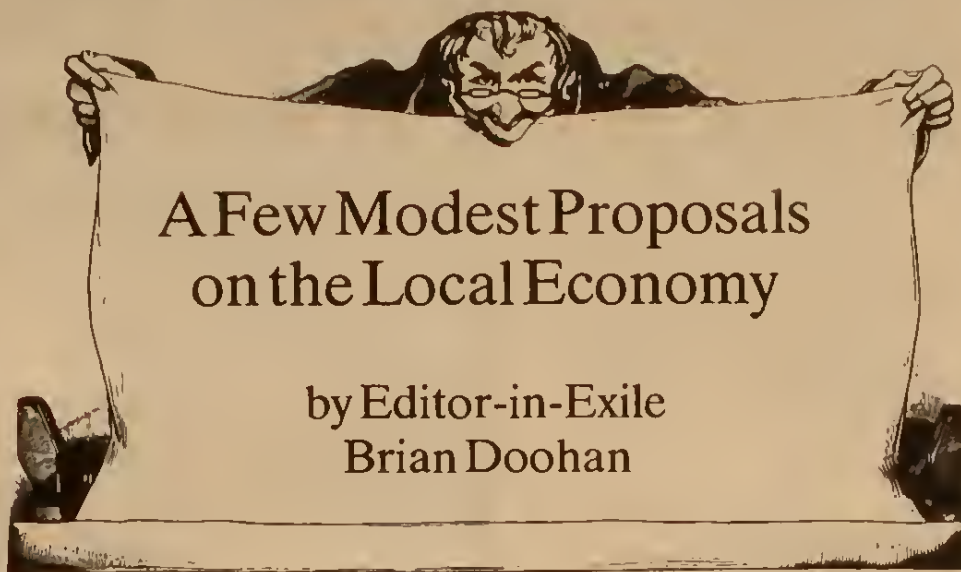
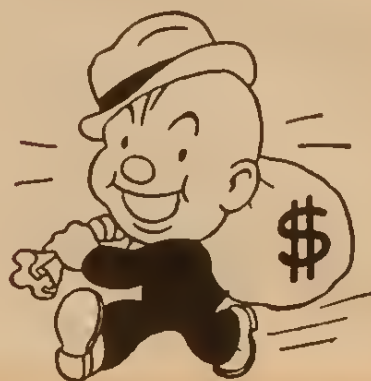
Most of the failed squatting efforts (except for those undertaken for publicity reasons)

fortunately, leadership in labor is nearly as reactionary and corrupt as that in business and a revived militancy is long overdue. The local media, for its part, should pay as much attention to labor, bank, and corporate board elections as it does to the Board of Supervisors, entertaining though the latter may be.

The recent example of Bank of America's layoffs, service cuts, and fee increases should inspire the creation of alternatives. As innumerable incompetents and downright crooks proved, it is about as easy to obtain a bank charter as it is to fall off a cable car. Since the financial institutions that emerged in the best shape in the 90s were those who rejected the temptations of junk bonds and invested in local business and homeowner mortgages, one satisfying solution might be for people to pay attention to the performance of their bank, S&L, or credit union—supporting worker managed alternatives where the President earns perhaps only twice the salary of the tellers and leaving those with bad management only the bad money to play with.

Reclaiming our economic independence and integrity still remains problematic. Meanwhile, outside forces continue to launch territorial attacks on the Mission...assaults which have diminished temporarily owing to the recession, giving us an opportunity to strike back. Next, we'll examine three potential points of contention—the downtown stadium, Mission Bay, and the Mission's gateway area existing in the Bermuda triangle at the intersection of that neighborhood, South of Market, and the Civic Center.

TO BE CONTINUED



the chance for germ warfare testing facilities on the basis of the janitorial jobs therein. The winner will be whoever blunders into money first or, as in the case of the Yerba Buena Center, whoever holds back while someone else risks their money, fails and goes bankrupt and who picks up an improved NEMIZ at the bankruptcy sale.

Proposal: Independent actions that provide both resistance to economic mismanagement and real pocket money for people should be undertaken before a personal and collective welfare descent into what is a usually inescapable welfare culture takes place. Boycotts of runaway companies like Nike and Green Giant which exploit workers in Indonesia and Latin

occur because the population is too depressed or drugged to maintain even a semblance of community. Newly laid-off workers whose anger hasn't yet turned into despair might have a better chance of keeping commercial squats functional—and if the net effect is to improve the block and cut into the drug/panhandling trade it will be very very difficult for the Mayor to call in the police to break them up.

Of course, more moderate elements may choose to play by the rules and pay rent and, here, the cooperation of the manufacturing and retailing sectors of organized labor would be essential, as would be the bringing to bear of the weight of capital presently salted away in pension funds and financial institutions. Un-



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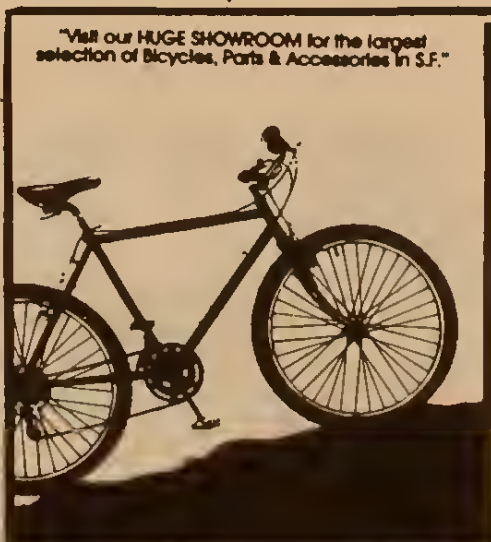
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César Chávez Community Service Scholarships



Carmen Olivares, David Aldape & Jose David Escobar

New College through its President Peter Gabel and the Center for Community Action, Research and Education has recently begun working with the newly formed Latino advocacy group - ALIANZA - in a multicultural, activist effort to create social change in the Mission. At a press conference and reception held May 28th at the College, the most recent of these actions which also involves the United Farm Workers was announced - the establishment of the Cesar Chavez Community Service Scholarship Program.



New College President Peter Gabel

The scholarship program is designed for Latino men and women who are pursuing careers in community organizing and social activism in both urban and rural settings. The grants will be awarded to students who will simultaneously be enrolled at New College while undertaking community service work through ALIANZA in the Mission. Students will also do work on behalf of the United Farm Workers.

On Friday, the first awards were made. The full-time scholarships were awarded to Jose David Escobar and Camen Olivares. David came to the U.S. from El Salvador when he was two. A life long resident of the Mission, he understands the joy and struggle of being a young person growing up

there. He uses this knowledge in his work with at-risk children at Buena Vista Spanish Immersion School will be finishing his BA degree in political science and pre-law and hopes to enter the New College School of Law. Carmen is a Nicaraguan parent who has been a full time activist for most of her adult life. A former chairperson of the Mission Cultural Center Board of Directors, union organizer and Coordinator of La RAZA Students Organization at SFSU, she is finishing her BA degree in Broadcasting there and hopes to enter the New College Law School this fall. The two half time scholarships went to Mitchell Salazar and George Suncin. Mitch has been Director of R.A.P.(Real Alternatives Program, Inc.) for nine years. George is the director of personnel at Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco.

The press conference/awards ceremony was both a college and community event. David Aldape, representing ALIANZA, was the master of ceremonies. David Escobar, who is also President of ALIANZA, then described its history and the connections that had been established with New College through joint work relating to John O'Connell High School, the Mission Education Center, the Summer of Service Program proposal and hoped for collaborations in areas of curriculum development, research/technical assistance projects with the Center for Community Action and bilingual internships, evaluation of educational performance particularly with latino immigrant students, etc. He then acknowledged those at New College who had assisted in creating the scholarship program: Peter Gabel; Martin Hamilton, Executive Vice President;



Apton Middle School student exiting "El Volado"

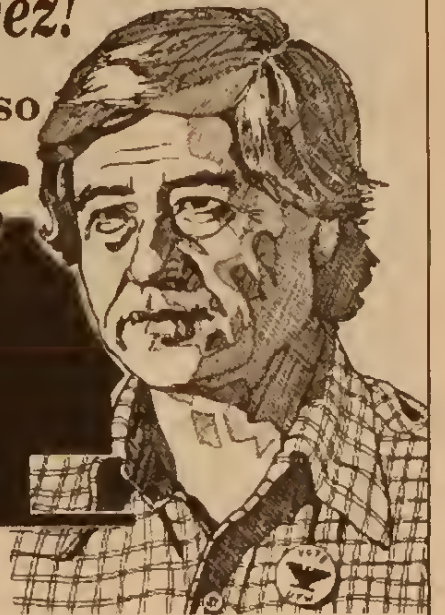
¡Viva César Chávez!

Acción y Compromiso

1927

1993

*Los Mas Unidos gracias por el apoyo
a esta celebracion de la vida de Cesar
Chavez y la familia Chavez*



Michael McAvoy, Director of the Center for Community Action, Research and Education; and Juliana Mojica, Admissions and Marketing Coordinator.

Peter Gabel then spoke movingly of the meaning that Cesar Chavez's life had for those seeking to realize the goals of a better life for working people. He said that the reason New College had established these scholarships was to realize New College's of linking education and social change through the integration of personal development and committed social action by supporting the development of future generations of young people to carry on Chavez's work.

Next, Aldape introduced Gene Royale, from the Urban Institute at San Francisco State. Royale noted how he had felt challenged by New College's award of an Honorary Doctorate to Dolores Huerta in 1991. This led him to urge SFSU to make Huerta an Urban Institute Fellow which was announced on Thursday at a luncheon in honor of the life of Robert F. Kennedy. He joked that this was one competition between the two schools which was beneficial to all concerned.

The final speaker was Eva Royale, the Northern California Coordinator of the United Farmworkers. Eva read a moving letter from Chavez' wife in which she spoke of the history of his work and the development of the UFW and although Cesar was not here in body that he was with us in spirit. Royale said Chavez's spirit was inspiring a renewed commitment to the farmworkers movement and that these scholarships were a manifestation of that commitment.

Many different areas of interest were represented: faculty and students from New College, community leaders from educational and service institutions in the Mission, representatives from labor unions and young people from the Real Alternatives Program's alternative high school and the Aptos Middle School's RAZA Club. Those in attendance included Gabriela Melano from Youth for

Service, Rich Somo of the Mission Hiring Hall, Stan Smith of the Building and Trades Council, Martin del Campo, Vice President of Local #790, Jim Salinas of the Carpenter's Union, Rafael Espinosa Vice President of the hotel and restaurant workers union (H.E.R.E. Local #2). Socorro Gamboa and from R.A.P., Marcos Gutierrez, Debra



Mitchell Salazar

Escobedo, attorney with the Multicultural Educational, Training and Advocacy (META), and Linda Luevano, Principal of Buena Vista Spanish Immersion School, Attorney Maria Olivares and Vickie Rega, parentcoordinator from John O'Connell High School.

The students from R.A.P. and Aptos were transported to New College via the Mexican folk art bus - "El Volado" - created by local Latino artists. In addition, the Aptos students who are learning media skills in a project designed by Jenna Mac Gillis of the Children's Media Lab videotaped the entire event.

The events ended with a reception catered by Casa Sanchez. Over burritos and salsa there was much talk of a new era in the Mission, one which brings together the many and various progressive elements in a new solidarity born of collaborative action and reaching across previously impermeable boundaries of identity and interest. Viva Cesar Chavez.

POETRY PAGE

These poems are the collaborative efforts of Tom Clark's workshop, "Writing Poems." The poems represented here, and several from early Poetry Pages, will soon be produced in book form. In some cases the final versions of the poems that appeared on this page will vary from the works published in book form. The editing was done under the careful guidance of the instructor. The participants in the workshop were: Jennifer Abeles, James Bastian, Pam Hasman, Owen Hill, Janet Jennings, Matt Morse and Amy Spade.

Geography of Attraction

Down to the water's edge, Lynn Di Martini,
Wet with the fog, crosses the sacred boundary.
"Enough of this!" she gestures out at these
Hawks and canyons flowing to still green.
Sitting in a loose fitting seizure,
Alone on the shore, dreaming of lovers,
Short on peace, but knowing many companions,
She saw herself and the way back to
Clear warm contours, both desperate and dear
Of pure, warm country in the flesh of her eyes.

Night in The Motor City

Today old silence begins speaking in Detroit
Dark cold and steely but it sounds white
Bringing back the snowstorm when she lost it all,
Poor Gwendolyn who moans with hackneyed pain
At two large men who left her to these storms:
"A time will come to get us out of cities,
Release me from your hands!" her cries expose these
Aliens — baring the first marks of their crimes —
Except that these are humans, sort of,
Until night causes them to be again transformed.
She stares and stares into their frozen eyes,
In the rearview red flares swim toward Egypt,
Raindrops in the streetlights like white bugs
Ascend toward the clarity of blue
Apocalypse, and all night the wind blows fogs
Of pain toward amphetamine exhaustion.

Buddadrive

Dawn breaks an immense sky unwrapping
His painted cave out to the whiteness of light
Summoned by the beacon glow of Saturn's rings
The sun bends back his bow and fire comes down
Strapped and blown in his wet strange car saffron-robed
Buddha feeds his life to the black shark
His scarf askew he drives wind-mad for hours
Spinning between the laws on the black edge
The boundaried word no bites and cogs his mind
That saturated fragment of his face
Suddenly bearing orange teeth he yawns
Skidding through jeweled swamps of gasoline

Third Floor at Dante's: Easy to Be Zen

"Buy you a drink or a dress, soul wanderer?"
No one says when or no below atmosphere.
You go into it, you do it, and there's an end—
Hot orange depth compressed, cold inner garments.

No exit. Sounds turn into upset
People, phrases into snarling screams.
The canopy of ancient percussion
Led to this deserted attic on this night.

We rode here in a loose fitting seizure
On idiot fire trucks seeking
That tributary of desire—blue and
Empty, circling our green amnesia.

Morning of Drunkenness

A Radiant hothouse, a fevered fresco —
The brief night of silver intoxication.
Accidents can be so beautiful —
Fate's dark guest, encroached upon and flawed.

Flowing through a riot of murky music,
Liquids pursued me, loosening my fingers
With golden foam, enclosing the terrible
Perfume of my neck in their midnight tent.

A skeleton dream filling motionless white
Brought me dawn, an immense sky unwrapping
Its veils with quiet of wood and stone.

Blue Flame

Paradisé, lay your fingers to my lips,
Listen as my voice gets a little softer.
Your heaven brims close with angel's allure,
Fair cherubs in the coming horizon,
The flesh of your eyes a pure warm country,
Lit by the moon that rises like a blue flame.

Camouflage

A moment ago you were here/there
A crazy furnace of possibility
Wrestled with your useful, usual touch
Charmed on the blue chair by rose red wine.

As long as you feigned flight, you were mine,
My suitor of savory distance.
In the deep pine woods that old fiction fools us
Back into the shimmering neon.

Your hands were careless of home or harm—
Empty circling my green amnesia,
That canopy of ancient percussion
Into which I long to vanish

Tempts you into it too, you go, there's an end
Where the cedar leaf divides the sky.

North of Sunset

Monk nods as an idiot spins the wheel
In gentle percussion to his old wig song

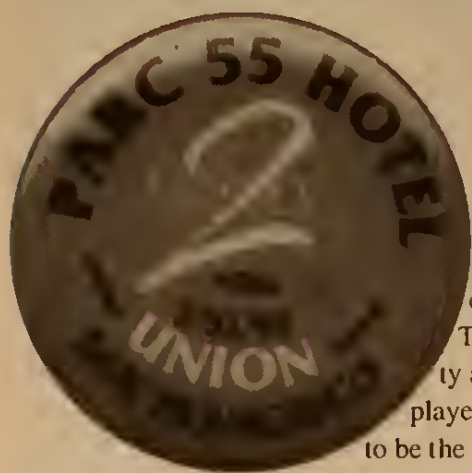
A red compulsion of shot down stars
Eliminates all sounds with these sounds

Monk falls down on his knees and catches fire
Poised to strike when space replaces time

Emperor Monk as Buddha serene and bored
Rises with blue smoke from this cooled volcano

In cobalt night without a morning
The day seems ungainly and the heart immense

New College helps Union Win Contract



In its very first issue, the Community Action Journal profiled the work of Lisa Jaicks, an undergraduate student organizing the Parc 55 Boycot. Through her efforts, many students, faculty and New College President Peter Gabel played important roles in what proved finally to be the successful attempt of workers at the hotel to win the right to join a union and negotiate a contract—March 31, 1993. The following letter was sent to Peter Gabel by the President of Local #2 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union.

LOCAL 2

Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees Union

209 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102 415/864-8770 Fax 864-4158

May 20, 1993

Peter Gabel
President
New College of California
50 Fell Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Peter:

Now that justice has been achieved at the Parc 55 Hotel we at Local 2 have the time to say thank you to some of our friends and supporters in the community. New College is clearly among those organizations whose efforts on our behalf contributed significantly to our victory.

Your leadership, vision and real commitment to the struggle for justice on the job and a better life for workers was transformed into concrete action by affording students credit for work on the Parc 55 boycott. If such a partnership could be instituted in every institution of education the labor movement would benefit greatly from such a powerful alliance.

Additionally, your individual commitment to the workers at Parc 55 was inspiring, from walking our picket lines to organizing, on your own initiative, a demonstration by 80 plus law professors at the Parc 55.

On behalf of the Parc 55 workers as well as the membership of Local 2, I want to express our gratitude to you personally and to the students at New College who really put their principles into action.

Sincerely,

SHERRI CHIESA
President

SC:jy

Family Literacy Center Opens



New College, which has been involved in progressive and innovative education for over twenty years, is now developing a Teacher Education Program. The program, to begin in August, will emphasize critical thinking linking theory and practice, encourage innovative multicultural teaching methods and seek to develop a sensitivity to the process of schooling as a tool for bringing about constructive change in the lives of children, their families and the community in which they live.

It is this last point - the celebration and validation of home culture, language and family - that the development of a Family Literacy Center at New College addresses. In a three month pilot program which began in April, faculty from the program meet twice a month with parents and children in a context that supports the idea that education is a collaboration between family/school and community rather than separate activities carried out by opposing teams. New College's Teacher Education Program will be the first in the state (and perhaps in the country) to integrate a Family Literacy Center into the core of its teacher development experience.

The Family Literacy Center sessions begin at noon with lunch provided by the Center. The sessions are conducted in Spanish which is the predominant second language in both community and the schools. Conducting the sessions in Spanish reflects current research that students learn best when their full primary language potential is developed.

The children, parents and faculty first meet in a whole family session. There is singing and stories, riddle telling, and readings to facilitate interaction. After this period, the gathering breaks down into children and adult groups so that each can share their experiences and concerns. This is particularly important for parents who then can learn additional strategies for continuing to work with their children at home. Issues in the literature are discussed. There is an emphasis on a critical perspective to identify underlying dynamics in the stories, etc. such as issues of justice and injustice in society. The groups then rejoin at the end of the session, for a final sharing of music, stories and artwork done in the sessions.

This unique approach to literacy gives respect to parents for the many ways they are already teaching their children. This setting can help overcome the alienation that ethnic and linguistic minority parents feel and support them to overcome any of their own past failures or limitations in education. The parents can check out books to take with them. Children's literature books are used as a tool to promote discussion and inspire children and their families to author, illus-

trate and even publish their own books about issues which concern them.

When the credential program begins in August, all education credential students will participate in the family literacy sessions. This will give them the opportunity to interact positively with families while learning to develop curriculum which validates the importance of family histories, values and knowledge. They will also conduct participatory research inviting parents to engage in dialogue about their own early educational experiences and current expectations for their children.

The Family Literacy Center invites practicing and future teachers to learn about this approach. Dr. Sudia Paloma, Director of the program, has also begun a class at Mission High for high school students to explore the idea of becoming teachers. These students are also invited to participate in the Center's activities.



Dr. Paloma recently received her doctoral degree in Multicultural Education from the University of San Francisco. Her dissertation deals with parent involvement in literacy development. An important collaborator in the work of the Center is Raul Nunez, a first grade teacher in the Mission. Raul is an immigrant from Mexico and is very sensitive to the issues affecting an immigrant population. Finally, Dr. Paloma would like to point out that this work was recently pioneered by Dr. Alma Flor Ada, Director of Doctoral Studies in International and Multicultural Education at USF, while working with farmworkers in Watsonville in the Pajaro Valley.

Anyone wishing to know more about the Center should contact Dr. Paloma at New College: (415) 241-1300 x 481.

Hot Off The Press!

The New College
Poetics Journal

PROSODIA 3



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New College Student Helps Create May Day Celebration in Minneapolis



Graduating senior Sparky Serpas recently returned to New College from a two month internship in Minneapolis with *In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater (HOBT)*. HOBT is a theater group that works year round creating plays and events in and about the community they grew out of in Minneapolis. The group has been around since 1974, performing works in response to political, environmental, and social issues on a fundamental community level. They also do many workshops and outreach teaching programs throughout Minnesota. But the group is most well known for the May Day celebration they stage each year.

The May Day Parade is a celebration of life. It carries on in an age old tradition dating back as far as ancient Roman and Celtic holidays. It is a time to feel good and to celebrate the awakening of life with the coming of Spring and with it warmer weather. May Day gives people the chance to see each other after being inside for the cold season, and the chance to be outside together and celebrate. This was the 19th annual May Day celebration that HOBT had staged.

Sparky heard about HOBT through Matt Schwarzman, of the Arts and Social

Change program at New College. After being accepted for an internship with the group, he flew to Minnesota to begin work on the May Day celebration. A fundamental part of the parade has always been the community involvement. HOBT holds free public meetings and workshops starting two months before the parade to choose the annual theme, and to give people the opportunity to create masks and puppets to participate with. The parade is created with the community for the community. One of Sparky's jobs was to assist people in the workshops, where he helped people create masks to wear as they marched in one of the six sections of the May Day Parade.

This year's theme, "*Let the Sleeper Awake*", comes from a Celtic chant for springtime. The playful and beautiful puppets in the parade tell a story that illustrates the theme picked in the community meetings.

Another key part of Sparky's work was a class he co-taught at South High School with Beth Peterson. For two weeks he taught the class of 14 to 17 year old students the history of the May Day event, and an introduction to the history



of puppet theater. Then, in collaboration with Beth, he taught hands on puppet and mask making as the class prepared for the event.

Sparky's class marched in the parade along with a mixture of all age groups in the masks that they created. The celebration is literally a public one, in that HOBT, with the use of primarily donated recycled materials, is able to give people assistance to have the freedom to co-create and produce a parade.

In the Heart of the Beast is grounded strongly in its community. They speak to social issues on all levels, from immediate to global. The parade has political elements, but is more just a celebration of life; a celebration of community and friendship and caring. As Sparky said, "People talk about the necessity for social change, but you can't forget about the needs of the people who are creating social change. The needs for joy and and visual spectacle. The things that appeal to all of your senses. These are the things that HOBT realizes, and through celebration, speaks to every year."



Disease Model of Addiction Questioned in Psychology Forum

The Graduate Psychology Lecture series regularly presents public forums examining critical issues in psychology and psychotherapy. On Tuesday, May 25th, a panel with diverse perspectives ranging from feminism, criminology, pharmacology, to community organizing examined the social, political and therapeutic implications of the disease model of addiction.

Pam Miller, Core Faculty in the Graduate Psychology Program, and a founder of the Women's Alcoholism Center introduced the evening by noting that the panel did not include anyone advocating a "12 step" approach. She said that this in fact was a conscious decision reflecting the cultural dominance that the disease model has gained and the need to examine its premises with some critical distance.

The first speaker was Jill Cooper, MFCC, Ph.D., a private practitioner in San Francisco and former faculty member at Antioch and UC Berkeley. More recently she is the author of "Codependency is Not An Addiction" and "Codependency: A Self Psychological Perspective". Cooper suggested that her remarks reflected an approach that could be described as "beyond the 12 steps". As a therapist, she had worked for years with this model until a number of her clients reported their dissatisfaction and expressed the limited meaning that continued participation in 12 step groups had for their lives. She felt it necessary to explore other options and found 'self-psychological' theory to be particularly useful. She found it able to get beyond the superficial levels of diversion that going to countless meetings represents and to examine the deeply rooted causes of addictive behavior. She found it able to provide for faster and more lasting changes. Additionally, it rejects the reductionistic tendency of the disease model to pathologize the feminine socialization process. It questions the easy labeling of certain behaviors as masochistic, instead raising the question of what kind of society calls deeply held feelings for another human being a sickness.

Richard Spiegelman, a criminologist from the Marin Institute for the Prevention of Alcohol and Other Drug Problems, was the next speaker. Spiegelman, who was formerly with the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley, is researching the issue of referral to AA for those with multiple convictions of drunk driving. In addition to his concern that there is little evidence pointing to the efficacy of AA in dealing with these people, he also has concerns about the collateral damage to an organization like AA when numbers of people are there who don't wish to be. Additionally, he noted the possible compromises on confidentiality that arise when

parole officers show up to ascertain that their clients are in meetings.

On a more theoretical and political level, Spiegelman argued that 'alcoholism' is a historical, social and political construct related to modern industrial society, rather than a 'natural' disease. Citing research done at the Alcohol Research Center and other places, he said that virtually all of 'core beliefs' regarding the disease theory of alcoholism i.e. it is uncontrollable, inherited, chronic, progressive, is the 'equal opportunity disease' striking anyone, that AA is the only effective treatment and that to not believe these things is to be in denial, are not able to be substantiated. The disease model seems to have thrived because it links up well with health insurance at the same time expands the turf of the medical industrial complex, etc. Finally, although he did not explicitly address it, his remarks would also implicate the disease model in depoliticizing the causes of 'alcoholism' or problem drinking and along with its therapeutic ally, Alcoholics Anonymous, help reproduce the isolated, autonomous individual as the site of interest and action in dealing with alcohol problems, rather than offering a model calling for social change.

Daryl Inaha, Pharm.D. has been the Director of the Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic's Drug Abuse Treatment Programs since 1967. Inaha had a different view on the issue. He in fact spent a considerable amount of time citing experimental research in genetics and toxicology which he felt reaffirmed many of the disease model tenants e.g. the ability to breed purebred 'alcoholic' and 'abstaining' rats (although he did indicate that genetics is probably a necessary but insufficient explanation). He also cited studies of gender and ethnic difference.

Mitchell Salazar, who has been the Director of R.A.P. for the past 9 years, was the final presenter. Mitchell argued for community solutions, rather than the chronically demoralizing search for individual solutions to a social problem. Mitchell spoke from his heart about his own life and of the lives of the thousands of young people he deals with in the Mission. He spoke of the acknowledged failure of the 'war on drugs' mentality and the necessity to redefine alcohol and drug issues and the related violence problems, not as a medical problem, but as public health problems. What is called for is not more police, or more doctors, but 'culturally competent, community based programs' emphasizing jobs and education to deal with the root causes of drug and alcohol abuse.

New College Supports Gaelforce Bloomsday Event to Benefit AIDS work in Ireland

The Center for Community Action, Research and Education will be providing technical assistance to the celebration of "Bloomsday", the James Joyce inspired annual commemoration of Dublin. The event will take place on Sunday, June 13th at Carroll's Bookstore, 24th and Church. The literary gala is sponsored by Gaelforce, a group of Hibernians and Hiberno-philas dedicated to raising funds for AIDS sufferers in Ireland.

The marathon reading of Ulysses, Joyce's classic which is set in Dublin on a day in mid-June will feature Irish poets, storytellers, actors and musicians. "Bloomsday" will culminate in a performance at 8:30 pm of Molly Bloom's heated soliloquy by Deirdre Herbert formerly of Dublin's Abbey Theater.

"Bloomsday summons Dubliners from the farthest outposts of the diaspora to acknowledge the Master and honor our native city" says Conor Howard, local litterateur and har-keep who is coordinating the GAELFORCE event.

Irish music and munchies will be provided. All proceeds to Irish AIDS relief.

Bill Bailey, Irish American Member of the Lincoln Brigade to speak at 2nd Annual Connolly Forum

Bill Bailey who fought with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War against Franco and the fascists will speak at a forum honoring the history of the Irish Socialists. These men and women formed their own brigade - the Connolly Column - named in honor of James Connolly one of Ireland's greatest socialist leaders. Discussion of the Connolly Column will be followed by the documentary film *The Good Fight* about the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Bailey's remarks will follow. Saturday, June 5th at 7:30 pm, 777 Valencia Street. Free Admission.



San Francisco's budget crisis is not an illusion; it is real and it is long-term. The current \$200 million shortfall will not be resolved through the well-worn methods of cutting services and raising taxes. Nor will the budget be balanced with the financial magic of previous years — there are no City surpluses left to tap.

San Francisco deserves better. Putting the City back on firm fiscal ground will require rethinking how City Hall provides and pays for the crucial services residents need and expect.

The Root of the Problem

Cuts in state funding to San Francisco are severe, but they should not excuse bad management. The City will face a \$65 million budget gap in the next fiscal year before the state deducts even a dime. San Francisco is living far beyond its means. This fiscal year, City operating expenses swelled by 5 percent, while revenues grew by only 2 percent.

Where to Cut

Fortunately, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors have viable alternatives to the quick fixes used to balance previous budgets. They must look long and hard at expenditures like these:

- San Francisco's 26,000 municipal employees are the best compensated in the state, earning

16 percent more than their peers in other California cities and 43 percent more than their federal counterparts. The outdated City Charter requires the City to pay many of its workers a premium above prevailing local wages.

The average San Francisco city employee receives \$62,000 per year, while 258 workers receive more than \$85,000. *More than 30 percent of this year's deficit is a result of automatic raises for city workers.*

- City workers filed 8,242 workers' compensation claims last year — the equivalent of one claim for every three city workers, or three times the claims rate in the California private sector. *Spiraling workers' compensation claims cost the City \$42 million last year.*

- The City does not provide some services cost-effectively. Muni has 25 percent more drivers on duty during off-peak periods than the City requires.

At the same time, revenue from fares covers only 28 cents of every dollar Muni spends; taxpayers pay the remainder.

Tough Choices; Real Solutions

The Administration has started to address many of these issues, but there is much more to be done and very little time.

We encourage the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to make the City live within its means by reducing labor costs, providing services more cost-effectively, better managing existing City resources and supporting efforts to reform city government.

Magic won't balance the budget, just good fiscal sense.

This Is No Way to Balance the City Budget

Yes

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The Mission's Wiggliest Business

Apodal Ecology Comes of Age

By Mike 'YAHOO' Ceaser

How would you like to employ thousands of eager workers who enjoy their work, never take a day off or complain, and are even into recycling?

If the concept sounds good to you, a call to YAHOO compost service will bring to your door a box of wriggly workers, also known as earthworms, who will be eager to turn your kitchen food scraps into rich, organic, compost. Head YAHOO Fernando Pastor says that his worms even come already trained.

Pastor, who co-founded YAHOO in '88 and is now director, says that one of his boxes, only about three cubic feet in size, can recycle the ton of food scraps which a typical three person kitchen generates annually. Since YAHOO has sold about 175 worm boxes, that means a lot of material saved from the landfill and put to a good use.

In fact, YAHOOing is about the ideal form of recycling, because it requires no un-renewable resources. Pastor builds his boxes out of salvaged wood, and delivers them by bicycle. And, YAHOOing it's as easy on the homeowner as it is on the planet. All one has to do is drop the scraps into the box and let the worms do their thing. They don't leak or smell funny, and Pastor assures me that the worms will not seek out adventure by squirming into their owner's bed. "They would much rather stay in the box with their food and their friends," he explained.

I visited Pastor at his home/YAHOO factory near 24th and Treat. On his back patio were several compost/worm breeding bins in which his worms fornicated in cozy beds of onion skins and coffee grounds donated by the organization 'Food Not Bombs.' Inside the garage, Pastor was nailing together yet another worm box. Once it is completed, each box gets decorated with its own unique art, usually featuring a smiling worm.

Each new YAHOO box comes with detailed instructions and two handfulls, or about 500, worms. This 'starter group' of worms requires about six weeks to reproduce

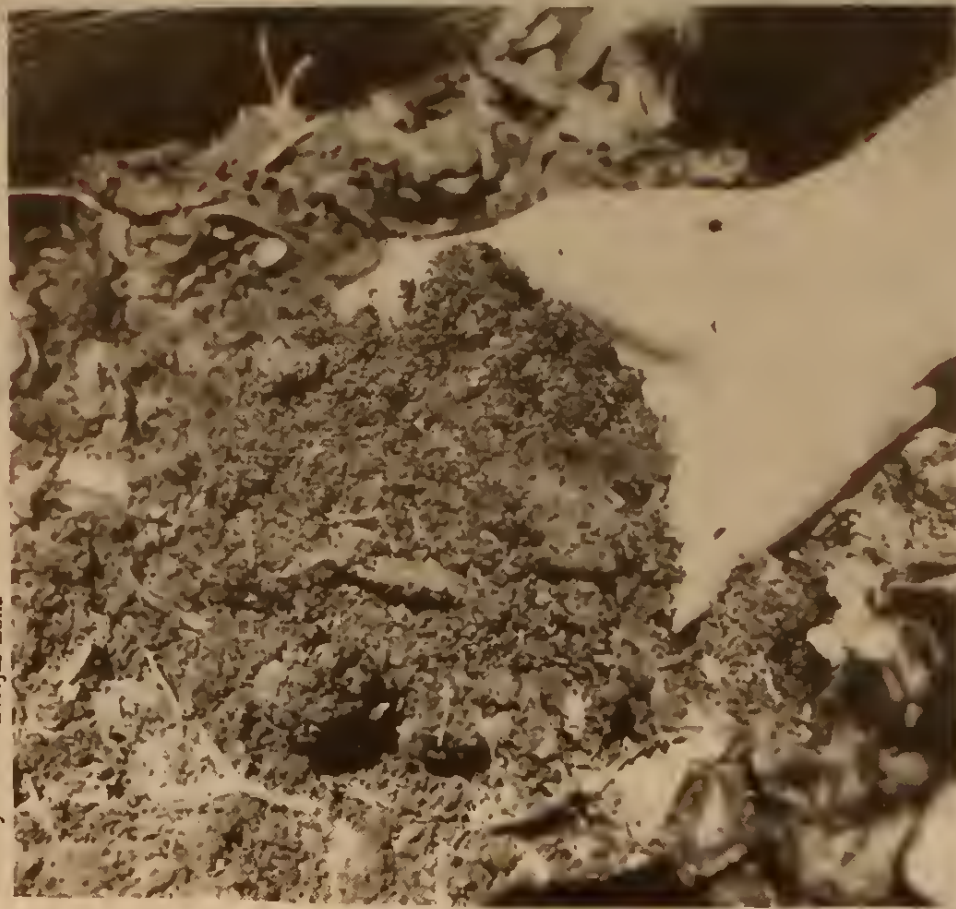


Photo by Frances Barajas-Lona

THE LITTLE DEVILS ARE IN THERE SOMEWHERE

enough to fill the box's full capacity and achieve full munch power.

Pastor told me that being in the worm business has meant joining a very select interest group. "There actually are worm buffs around," he said, "and sometimes I find myself in long worm worm conversations on the telephone." Apparently, an aficionado of annelids can sometimes find it difficult to find someone else interested in discussing his favorite topic.

In fact, one day back when Pastor still used the YAHOO van for his deliveries, he looked into his rear view mirror, and was con-

cerned to see a bicycle cop furiously pursuing him. But, when Pastor pulled over he happily discovered that the officer was just another aficionado who wanted to discuss his best friends.

On the other hand, Pastor has encountered a few people who object to the worm boxes as 'animal exploitation.' Pastor disagrees, of course. "I'm giving them a nice home, doing what they like to do best." But, Pastor does concede that sometimes he feels a little bit like a slave dealer when he dumps worms from box to box, or counts them out. But, he shrugs off this idea off, saying that

dealing in worms is much different from dealing in human beings. "Although I've met people who I've considered worms," he explained, "I haven't yet found a worm which I would consider a person."

Pastor also told me that the Bay Area currently is experiencing a real worm shortage. "I get lots of phone calls from people who just need worms. I can sell them a few when I have enough extra," he said, "but I'm trying to solve the problem by creating a worm collective in San Francisco." This would mean that people who had 'mature' YAHOO worm boxes- ones which had reached their peak of worm population- could sell their excess worms to others.

The worm collective is just one part of Pastor's plan to change YAHOO's emphasis from retail sales to compost advocacy and educational work, such the presentations which he currently does in schools. Pastor has already obtained nonprofit status through the TIDES foundation, and now he is looking for grant money. A social as well as environmental reformer, he particularly wants to work with poor communities, which, "pretty much missed the environmental boat," he said. Pastor even tried, unsuccessfully, to get homeless people to sell his boxes for him on commission.

Pastor thinks that the Mission would be a particularly fertile neighborhood for worm composting, because many of its residents have experience with composting in their countries of origin. He also wants to advocate community gardening and has his eye on a Valencia Street location to use as a combination retail store and composting information center.

Pastor's projects are wonderful, but I still felt concerned about the worms. They do all of the hard work, day in and day out, and in complete anonymity, while Pastor makes the money and gets written up in newspapers. I asked him whether he didn't ever feel like an annelid exploiter. "No. I have never made a worm to work for me," he explained. "A worm's just got to do what a worm's got to do."

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TEOTIHUACAN: CITY OF THE GODS, CITY OF MYSTERIES



MASK WITH SKULLS A.D. 250-750

The art treasures of one of the world's most mysterious ancient cities are now on display at the De Young Museum in an exhibition of over 200 objects from Mexico's most famous archeological site: Teotihuacan.

Most such museum presentations give abundant information about the origin, function, and cultural significance of each and every item. *Teotihuacan: City of the Gods*, which will be on view through October 31, provides more riddles than explanations. The true name of this city and its people are unknown as are its language and most of its history.

The titanic ruins of Teotihuacan just north of Mexico City were uninhabited for six centuries when the Aztecs first encountered them. Overwhelmed by the abandoned metropolis that at one time had a population of 150,000, the Aztecs called it the City of the Gods, or Teotihuacan.

Teotihuacan is best known for its massive temples and pyramids (the Pyramid of the Sun covers an area of 500,000 square feet) lined along the geometrically precise two-mile-long, 130-foot-wide Avenue of the Dead. One of the surprises of the De Young show is that the same culture which excelled artistically on a monumental scale also produced so many small figurines, meticulously detailed incense burners, and other finely wrought artifacts whose purposes remain to be known.

Some of the most intriguing objects in the show are host figures, hollow ceramic statues of seated human bodies. The chests of the rather austere host figures are cut away as in an anatomical model, but instead of bones and organs, elaborately dressed miniature sculptures of men and women fill up the bellies, backs, arms, and legs of these curious works of art. So far no explanation has been put forth to give the why and wherefore of the host figures. The fairly logical assumption that they represent wombs is contradicted by the fact that a number of the hosts are males. The host figures illustrate a major appeal of this exhibition: experiencing a world view that is not only radically different from our own but radically different from everyone else's, an aesthetic vision that has remained enigmatic for over a thousand years.

Although it is called the City of the Gods, Teotihuacan is more properly the City of the Goddess. Teotihuacan is unique among pre-Columbian societies in having a female as its principal deity. Archaeologists have yet to determine her name or much about her, but it's known that she was a goddess of nature and fertility associated with ritual bloodletting and human sacrifice. Like so many aspects of Teotihuacan life, the goddess is a riddle yet to be unraveled.

Teotihuacan endured as an urban center for about 850 years, from 100 B.C. to 750 A.D. At its zenith as the preeminent city of Meso-America in the third and fourth centuries, its influence and prestige extended to all other cultures. Depictions of Teotihuacan personages appear in the art works of the people

of Monte Alban in Oaxaca and Mayan reliefs at Tikal in Guatemala. Ceramic ware originating in Teotihuacan is found throughout Mexico and Central America, indicating a wide ranging trading system built around the high value placed on Teotihuacan art by contemporary pre-Columbian societies.

The Aztecs appeared in the Valley of Mexico in 1325 and were fascinated by Teotihuacan culture. Many Aztec works are direct copies of sculptures and paintings of Teotihuacan in an attempt by the later Aztec social order to associate itself with the past glory of the City of the Gods.

The 20th Century fascination with Teotihuacan art is one of the reasons the current exhibition has required so much time and energy to assemble and why it is billed as the first and only one of its kind. In the gallery section devoted to masks, each mask is a stylistic variant on the readily identifiable Teotihuacan characteristics of flatness, angularity and abstraction. These masks, which seem to have been together for millennia, have in fact never been displayed together before, or at least not in the last twelve hundred and fifty years. The masks have been borrowed from Yale, Princeton, Washington D.C., the University of Pennsylvania, Vienna, and Mexico City. The exhibition as a whole has been assembled from 23 separate sources and will be literally scattered to the four winds when the show ends. This means Teotihuacan: City of the Gods is a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience the exotic beauty of one of history's most remarkable civilizations.

The De Young Museum, located in Golden Gate Park, will be having a number special events in conjunction with the City of the Gods exhibit between now and October 31st. This month there will be a lecture by Gretchen Turner on Sunday, June 13th, and a poetry reading by Latino poets on Saturday, June 26th. For more information call 750-3640.

Victor Miller



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The Nights are Hot at Club Malibu

The Mission's newest Latin night spot is a hit. The Club Malibu located at 3395 Mission St. has been open only 3 months but is already packing them in five nights a week (Wednesday through Sunday) for torrid music and dancing. The club, situated at the old Club Elegante locale, has a spacious dance floor, good acoustics, and a sound system so powerful a \$90,000 sound proofing job was required to contain it.

Club Malibu provides a relaxed and friendly atmosphere to dance or learn to dance—there are free Salsa lessons given every Wednesday from 8:30 to 9:30—or to just sit back and enjoy the liquid amusements of the full bar. You can follow up your Wednesday Salsa lesson by dancing to the rhythms of Conjunto Cani, a group I did not have the opportunity to hear but one that has developed a popular following.

Last month the Club Malibu featured a Palo de Mayo dance contest with a \$1000 1st prize. On the Thursday night of the semi-finals when I visited, the club contestants, each with a contingent of supporters to cheer them on, began arriving as soon as the doors opened. A lot of good natured banter went back and forth between groups as to just who was going to dance who off the dance floor, but when the competition began it was serious stuff. The Palo de Mayo is a popular Nicaraguan dance that was brought to the New World from Africa where it was performed as a ceremonial dance honoring fertility. The couples in the Club Malibu contest certainly kept up that tradition honoring fertility in a sizzling and spectacular 20th Century style. The Palo de Mayo is a hot dance.

Dance contests and salsa lessons aside, the heart and soul of the Club Malibu is the Bobby Lechuga Orchestra, a fantastic ten piece ensemble that can play any style of Latin music and play it with a passion. That's not surprising for a band that has been around since 1936! Of



Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

THE RED HOT BOBBY LECHUGA ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES ITS 57TH ANNIVERSARY ON JUNE 7TH

course, the Lechuga Orchestra has gone through about 200 or so personnel changes since then, but still blasting away on lead trumpet is 76-year-old Bobby Lechuga. Lechuga has been with the group since it was started in El Salvador 57 years ago by his father.

Bobby, his four brothers, his father, and an uncle constituted the first Lechuga Orchestra.

The senior Lechuga continued with the group until 1963. After arriving in New York City in 1969, the band established themselves there for five years then spent five years on the road before finally settling in California in 1980. Whatever that much experience has taught Bobby, he seems to have been able to pass it on to the current Lechuga incarnation that is

made up of some very polished professional players and knockout vocalists. The Lechuga Orchestra is a rare and exciting example of authentic Latin American Music not to be missed.

The Club Malibu is open from 8:30 pm to 2 am, Wednesday through Sunday. For information call 821-7395.

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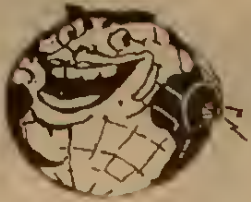
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ROUND WORLD MUSIC REVIEW

by Robert Leaver

AFRICANDO

Anyone who loves Salsa or Cuban music knows of its African roots, and in Africa, in particular West and Central Africa, Cuban style music has long been popular. As recently as the eighties and as long ago as the forties, African bands have been playing their own style of rumba.

From Abidjan, Ivory Coast, the singer Laba Sosseh recorded with the famous Orquesta Aragon in Cuba and Monguito in New York City. The Star Band and Orchestra Baobab were massively popular in Senegal during the seventies playing their Cuban-tinged music.

Updating this tradition we have the superb recording AFRICANDO. Produced by Paris-based Ibrahim Sylla, who has cut records with almost every significant artist from Mali, Senegambia, Ivory Coast, and Congo/Zaire, AFRICANDO is a "salsa" record sung and arranged by Africans. The arrangements were done by Malian Boncona Maiga, who in the sixties studied music in Cuba with a group called Maravilla de Mali, well-known in West Africa for their tight Cuban style. Maiga has worked with musicians such as Salif Keita, Manu Dibango, and Alpha Blondy as well as recording his own salsa album in New York City.

Sylla and Maiga took three African singers to NYC from Dakar, Senegal: Pape Seck, formerly of the Star Band, Medoune Diallo, who had sung with Baobab, and Nicolas Menheim. There they assembled an all-star Latin

band including many former members of Orquesta Broadway: Ronny Baro on vocals, Eddie Zervigon on flute and Sergio George on piano, "Chombo" Silva and Mario Rivera on saxophone, three trumpets, veteran percussionists, three violins, and Adaberto Santiago and Yayo El Indio on backing vocals. They recorded eighteen songs, nine of which are on "Trovador," AFRICANDO Vol. 1.

The c.d. starts off with "Dole, Mbolo," a hot Wolof version of El Gran Combo's "Eliminacion de los Feos." From son montuno to charanga style, this band swings. Ronnie Baro sings lead on "Trovador," praising great singers from Africa and Cuba/Latin NYC. How many can you recognize? Pape Seck's gruff vocals animate "Medoune Khoule," Medoune Diallo's plaintive nasal lead vocal on "Gouye Gui" gives me goose bumps, and the songs' coro is entirely unique. The horn and string arrangements are superb throughout. The recording itself is flawless. For any African or Latin music fan, this is a must.

Another crucial record is the Ryco Jazz reunion YO LA. This band from Congo-Brazzaville influenced an entire generation of African musicians in Abidjan and Paris in the late seventies, and later in Martinique they helped shape the popular soukous-zouk style that conquered Paris and Africa. The band's core is Essous, former leader/singer/sax of Congo's premier band, Les Bantous de la Capitale; Jerry Malekani, known for his work as Manu Dibango's guitarist; and drummer Freddy N'Koukou. They are joined by top



soukous singers Balloy Canta and Shimita, Cameroonian bassist N'guma Lokito, and guitarist extraordinaire Lokassa Ya Mbango. Mano Dibango has a guest spot on sax.

Two songs by Ryco Jazz are long medleys of well-known African popular songs composed by various members of this collective. The other two cuts are straight ahead irresistible soukous rump shakers. This is African dance music at its best.

On the Latin front, there is a new collection on c.d. of Cuban singer Celina Gonzalez and her recent band called QUE VIVA CHANGO. Albeit a large band with horns, the sound remains rooted in the guajira style of her early recordings, dating to 1948, that she did with her husband, Reutilio. This qbadisc release contains material from four l.p.s and a complete lyric sheet. Oyé!

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WOMEN'S WORK

Women's work is never done. According to Sisterhood is Powerful, an ancient tome from the early seventies, women do housework 98.6 hours a week. During the eighties decade, women added to these considerable tasks by taking jobs outside the home. Women now work a forty hour week as well as come home to work some more.

Women's work is never done. We don't resent this or wish to be doing something else. All the hard work we've done for all these hours and years has given us endurance, strength, insight, skill. We've been silent because we're busy learning, healing, caring. In our case, silence doesn't equal death, it equals on-the-job training for one of our biggest challenges: to begin our work.

Women's work is never done. I work at the Women's Cancer Resource Center in Berkeley. A woman asked me recently why it is that women have not yet done with the issues of cancer politick what the men have done with AIDS direct action politick, for instance ACT UP. One reason is that women's work includes caretaking. We take care of "others" before we take care of ourselves. We do the job, we do the housework, take care of family, take care of the pets, take care of a crumbling educational system, bring care into a cold medical system. There is little time left over for self-caretaking, especially considering the 98.6 hours just to do the work in the house. When we sought jobs outside the home, the family fretted about potential neglect of their needs. Not to worry: women still come home, iron the curtains, cook the supper. Without having to

make a note in our Daytimers, women have managed to do all this work and to support each other's lives, to mourn our losses. Now as women speak out about cancer statistics, realities, challenges the worry persists that there won't be so much caring for men with AIDS, for the school systems, for the office. The questions raised about the possibility of women's attention being diverted to concern with women's health needs covers the fear that if women care for ourselves, the world as we have known it for the past few centuries won't be the same.

Women's work is never done. Recently we've added to our time management challenges breaking the silence on women and cancer. Currently added to office and house hours of labor, we're managing to figure in time to put out information about women and cancer (certainly the CDC doesn't do an adequate job with this). Women get cancer at a phenomenally high rate (one in three women). More women have died from complications of breast cancer than men have died from AIDS. Women die from this life threatening disease with high odds against our survival because of a medical system that bases its diagnostics and treatments on men and their diseases.

When women focus on our work to define, create social structure; when women use our selves and our feminine qualities as models the nuclear family will no longer suffice since it does not serve to create just, caring, nurturing social systems and interpersonal relationships. The work, for the moment, is to leave men to do the hard work of caring for themselves; to include children in the respon-



sibilities and consideration for human life. The work is to expose medical government negligence, corporate conspiracy, and medical complicity in disease and to bring these crimes to justice. The work is to name the profit motive the pollutes the earth, the advertising campaign that sells the toxins, the labs that withhold the cures they will be called to a curt accounting for the bodily harm done. It means that a medical system that profits from sustaining ill health and insurance companies that profit from diagnoses of disease and even death of the individual will be called to a speedy trial and

judgement for conflict of interest. The work is to challenge the medical system for its lack of responsibility, its inability to heal, its prejudice, malice, and carelessness.

Women's work is never done. That isn't the source of our oppression, it's a statement of our purpose for, an assertion of our intent with, a focussing of our concentration on the remaining tasks at hand: to speak in our voices, to speak out of the silence, to caretake for ourselves; to restore healing, caring, nurturing as valued work. Then we'll take a short break, celebrating that women's work is never done.



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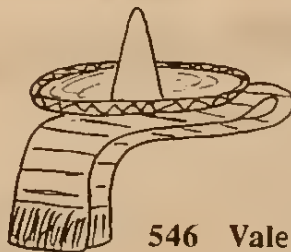
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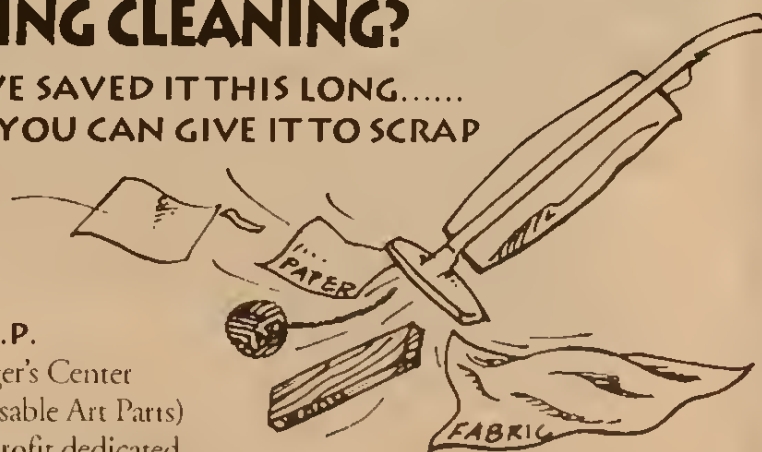
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THE ACUPUNCTURE FILE

Sciatica and Low Back Pain



by Sally McMullen, L.Ac., D.N.B.A.O.

OUCH! My Aching Back!

In Traditional Chinese medicine, sciatica (pain in the lumbar region and lower limbs) was listed among "Bi Syndromes", which means blockage of acupuncture channels. This blockage gives rise to pain, stiffness, numbness, and heaviness of the affected areas. Successful treatment restores circulation to normal, thereby relieving the pain.

In Western medicine the term "sciatica" generally connotes pain anywhere along the course of the sciatic nerve, i.e. from the lumbar region down to the lower limbs. It implies a pinch or injury of the sciatic nerve. Sciatic pain originates from vertebrae located in the lower back, and it is very important to determine

which vertebrae are causing the problem.

Prolapsed or herniated intervertebral discs are a common cause of sciatica and low back pain.

Acupuncture is very effective in treating sciatica and low back pain. Pertinent studies are discussed below:

Study 1. From 1975 to 1977, a Chinese Medical Team in Tunisia studied 318 cases of sciatica. Pain was completely relieved in 78.3% of these cases. There was marked improvement in 16.7% of the cases and some improvement in 3.7% of the cases. Only four cases out of 318 cases had no improvement. (I would say this is pretty impressive!) (J. Trad. Chin. Med., 1979; 19(8):24-26.)

Study 2. In 1973, a special study of cases with herniated discs and osteoarthritis was done at the Downstate Medical Center, Acupuncture Research Group, State University of New York, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Results: After only nine treatments, improvement was found in 83.9% of the 56 cases with herniated disc and 62% of the 29 cases with osteoarthritis. (Amer. J. Chin. Med., 1973; 1(2):317-326.)

Study 3. From December 1986 to August 1987, a Chinese Medical Team in Morocco studied sciatica cases where pain was radiating from the low back to the lower limbs.

Results: 135 cases were studied. After an average of only 6-7 treatments 47.4% were completely resolved; 34.8% showed marked improvement; and only 7.4% showed no effect. (Shanghai J. Acupun. Moxibustion; 1988; 2:12-13.)

Say Goodbye to Pain?

Acupuncture therapy for sciatica will be most effective if the treating doctor determines the specific area which is causing the problem. There are a number of tests which help a doctor make such a determination.

Selection of specific points along the affected dermatome of the lower limb is especially important for relief of radiating lower limb pain.

If you have had sciatica for a while and are weak due to chronic pain, your treatments should alternate with rest periods, e.g., two treatments a week for 5-6 weeks and then a rest period. Alternating between getting treatments and resting is essential to recover your energy.

After one series of effective treatments, some severe cases of sciatica with pain radiating down to the limbs may relapse due to triggering factors. However, the pain will usually be less intense than it was originally. Treatment should then be repeated because the recurrent pain can again be relieved. As shown in the studies above, it is possible to completely resolve the pain.

It has been my experience during eight years of practice that the majority of sciatica cases can be resolved, or show marked improvement, by the use of acupuncture in a series of 10-12 treatments.

For more information call
Sally McMullen, L.Ac.,
Cert. Industrial Disability
Evaluator, (415) 550-7732.





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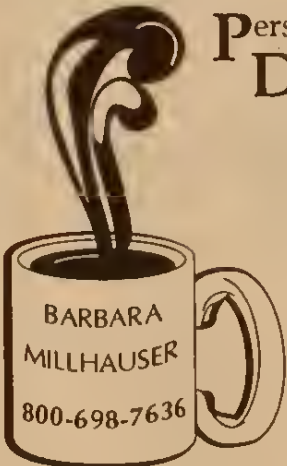
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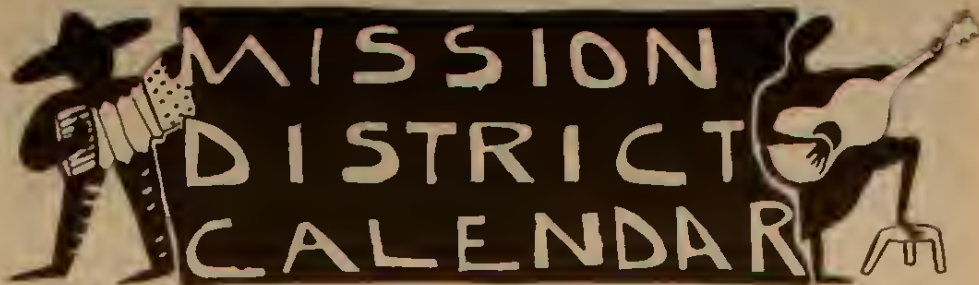
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Friday, June 4

Mixed Chamber Music — Bartok and other classy gents are performed by classy local folk. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. \$8/\$3 seniors and kids. Call 647-6015.

Saturday, June 5

Happy Birthday Izzie — The Isadora Duncan Dance Center hosts an open studio in honor of our native San Franciscan dancer Isadora Duncan birthday. Dance class, lecture, exhibit, and refreshments. 3435 Army St. #202, corner of Mission. 10:30 am til 1:30 pm. Free. Call 587-0730.

Sunday, June 6

The Un-Hurt Version — "Caligula", by Albert Camus, presented by American Theatre Ventures will be performed at Artaud. 450 Florida St. 8 pm. \$12.50 - 14.50. Call 621-7797. Performance runs thru June 13.

Whose Sane Whose Sane — A compilation of spoken works and music recorded live during the Persian Gulf War can be heard at Dog Eared Books, 1173 Valencia St. 4 - 6 pm. Call for info 641-8403.

Monday, June 7

Summer Dance Workshop — At Beth Abrams' Dance Studio, 3435 Army St., Suite 208. For information call 282-6177. Workshop continues thru August 28, 1993.

Tuesday, June 8

Kill Your TV (Monopoly) — Demonstrate against Viacom for canceling 70 successful community television shows and sabotaging public access in SF. Picket line and rally front entrance of SF Moscone Center on Howard between 3rd and 4th streets. 11:30 am. Show up don't be a couch potato.

Isn't It All Fiction Anyway — Prose reading by the Winners of the 1993 SF Bay Guardian Fiction Competition. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia St. 7pm. Call 626-ARTS.

Wednesday, June 9

Photos a la Homo — Allen Ellenzweig presents a talk and slideshow of images from his book The Homoerotic Photograph. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 7:30 pm. Free. Call 282-9246.

Thursday, June 10

Holy Moses — The roving shaman and storyteller Johnny Moses of the Nootka/Spokane Indian tribe comes to SF. He will be sharing medicine teachings and other empowering techniques. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 6:30 - 10 pm. \$15 suggested donation. Native Americans and children free. Call 510-528-5246.

Friday, June 11

Got A Minute, See A Movie — ATA presents 2nd Annual Short Attention Span Film and Video. Featuring short work (3 minutes or less) from all over the U.S. Promise to ...du what were we talking 'bout... Oh yeah promises to grab the attention of the most boreable. ATA, 992 Valencia. 8:30 pm. \$3 - 5. Call 824-3890.

Also on June 12.

Saturday, June 12

Attention Crafty Women — Today is the

deadline for application to participate in the 1993 "Celebration of Craftswomen". This is the largest women's crafts fair in the US, presented by the SF Women's Building. For information and applications call 415-361-0700.

Dance For The Dine On Dore — Multi-cultural cabaret and live reggae dance party to benefit Big Mountain Survival School. C. Lennon Studio, 291 Dore St. 6 pm. \$5-10. Call 821-9167.

Sunday, June 13

Tattooed Ice Queens, Lemon Chicken & Other Songs of Disquieting Desire — Lisa Aagi and Justin Chin present a multi-media performance piece as a benefit for Asian Pacific Sisters. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. 7 pm. \$15-25 sliding scale. Advance tickets \$10. Call 821-1155.

Yo Ho Ho And A Bottle Of Jazz — The Wallace Hill Quintet performs at Schooner Tavern, Valencia and 26th St. 7 pm - 11 pm. Free.

Monday, June 14

Ban The Concrete Bedroom — Join in on the vacant property take over. Catered by Food Not Bombs. We will seize property and demand it be used for affordable housing. Civic Center Plaza at City Hall. 6 pm. Call 330-5030.

Tuesday, June 15

Jerks For Jordan — Political grief counseling session meets at Cafe Picaro. 7pm. Ask for Mario.

Wednesday, June 16

Chap Stick Music — Teed Rockwell plays the chapman stick at the Marsh. He is accompanied with guest performers playing original compositions combining a variety of styles including jazz, Latin, folk, rock, and funk. Teed Rockwell and Friends can be seen at the Marsh, 1062 Valencia. 8:30 pm. \$6 at door. Call 282-6024.

Also on June 23 & 30.

Thursday, June 17

Anatomically Correct Thespians — A.C.T. graduates star in "Bodyparts", an anatomical journey of monologues and music. Studio 2505, 2505 Mariposa St. 8 pm. \$ 7, Th, Fri, Sun. \$10 Sat. Call 905-4605. Performance dates are Thursday thru Sunday for the month of June.

Friday, June 18

Color Riot — Gay men of color performing to challenge the borders of homophobia, racism, and class. Modern Times, 888 Valencia St. 7:30 pm. \$3-5 sliding scale. Call 282-9246.

Saturday, June 19

The SF Mission Youth Soccer League Kickoff! — A short ceremony (without Frank Jordan) will kick off the Mission's fasting growing youth activity. MYSL still needs volunteers, if you can help call 878-1170. Kickoff game begin 10 am. Rolph Park, 26th & Potrero.

Let's Do It In The Alley — Benefit for the Clarion Alley Mural Project. Featuring verbal art by Mission poets, Alfonso Texidor, O. R. Hand, Peter Plate, and others will join with acapella/hip hop group The Midnite Voices. SF Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 9 - 12 pm. \$ bring money \$. Call 864-7532.

7 Years of Komotion — Anniversary celebration with Badlam Cover, Shannon Callahan, and spoken words by Vampyre Mike and Delta O'Hare. Komotion, 2779 16th St. Donations! Bring some money. 10 pm. Call 431-6523.

Sunday, June 20

Homophonies — Society of gay and lesbian composers. Chamber music, tape music, and new music, for men's chorus. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 8 pm. \$8/\$3 senior and kids. Call 647-6015.

Sweet Potato Poetry — Daughters of Yam; Devorah Major & Opal Palmer two African-American writer-performers join forces to revitalize the tradition of poetry. Mission Cultural Center 2868 Mission St. 5 pm. Call 821-1155 for info.

Monday, June 21

Cocks Have Claws — Staged reading of a new play by Amparo Garcia. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. 8 pm. Call for information 821-1155.

Tuesday, June 22

Yes Sir It's Chaucer — Tale Spinners Theater presents Candlestick Tales a retelling of the Canterbury Tales at the Marsh. 1062 Valencia. 8:30 pm. 641-0325. Also playing on June 29.

Thursday, June 24

Bushel of Fun — Agnes Bushell will read from her new mystery novel "Death By Crystal", at Modern Times, 888 Valencia St. 7:30 pm. Free. Call 282-9246.

Friday, June 25

Blue Boys — Little Willie and The Blue Room Boys boogie woogie music with piano,

clarinet, and trumpet at Radio Valencia. 1099 Valencia. 8:30 pm. Free. Call 821-1199.

Saturday, June 26

Hop On Hate's Bandwagon — Join thrashers Hate Holiday, Clarke Nova, and Stickleback in a benefit for a new grass-roots alliance of artists to create community outreach programs. Komotion, 2779 16th St. 9:30 pm. \$5/4 members. Call 861-6423.

Floricante In Xochitl in Cuicatl — The Mission Cultural Center and De Young Museum present Chicano/Latino poets at the De Young Museum Auditorium in Golden Gate Park. 1-4:30 pm. Call 821-1155 for information.

Sunday, June 27

Degas Will Robinson. Degas — Cyber-raris: Exploring Art and Technology. Gabfest with various local visual and audio artist. Modern Times, 888 Valencia St. 7:30 pm. Call 282-9246.

Monday, June 28

Broads Off Broadway — Brassy broads really do it at the Marsh. Performance works by new and seasoned performers. Also features Regina Burnig, Mariam Engelberg, and Brian Frishman. The 1062 Valencia. 8:30 pm. \$6. Call 641-0235

Tuesday, June 29

Jazz Joynt — Charlie Hunter Trio performs at the Elbo Room, 647 Valencia. 10 pm. \$2. Call 552-7788.



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"He noticed, as he walked on, the children, some naked and some in shorts, running in different directions, playing the rain games." Moazzam Shiekh



"I like the idea that bikers are secretly reveling in something only named by French feminist theorists, though it's a form of decentered desexualized erotic practice spiced up with will-to-power and flirtation with death." Rebecca Solnit

"I shifted, turning slightly away from him. I had to suppress a chuckle, being presented with such a small town scenario: a parked car, an older homosexual who gets boys drunk, inhabitants of the night and their seedy rituals. The casting was less than flattering." D-L Alvarez



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Al Rose: Harelip With an Attitude

by Eve

Hey, Eve, why don't you write a comic about a harelip? How come you never write about harelips?"

"You know what they say about harelips? They say that women make harelip babies by fucking a rabbit or a camel! Or they get their harelips from too much oral sex, or that no one could ever kiss a harelip! It's not true! They get books on paraplegics and blind painters, how come nobody ever writes about harelips?" Al asks me, passionately, his pink harelip quivering in the sun.

I had never given harelips much thought until I met Al Rose: harelip extraordinaire, journalist, novelist, artist, lover of pawn shops, and champion of hookers and transvestites. How can I describe Al? How can I describe his voice? Does it boom? Nah..., booming voices are for rich, eccentric father-in-law types from Queens, though Al is certainly loud enough. Try and picture a middle-aged harelipped man with the energy of a chihuahua coming at you in an otherwise quiet cafe with his arms spread. Innocent bystanders sip their morning coffee with frightened looks on their faces, like cattle chewing their cud on fields where a UFO has landed. Something is going on here that's bigger than themselves, and they're not sure how to react.... Should they smile and say hello or reach for a gun? Nothing is safe, nothing is

sacred. He might get up and start interviewing you... What color panties are you wearing? What's your favorite kind of tree? You just never know with that guy.... One moment he's writing beautiful love stories about women falling in love with Mexican men in chicken outfits, next he's crashing the Chamber of Commerce luncheon demanding that he be served the same food as the Mayor. He's a hardcore kind of guy. He's the kind of guy you always run into when you're in the midst of a nervous breakdown in Pacific Heights. If there were a God of Nervous Breakdowns, he'd definitely look and sound just like Al.

He says what he thinks and it's always a surprise, and not always a pleasant one. What can you expect from a harelip, if not integrity? Imagine the Butthole Surfers performing Madame Butterfly while on acid. Imagine Salvador Dali on speed. Maybe harelips are a different breed of people. It takes guts to get through this world as a "freak" even in San Francisco. Guts and a lot love. Who knows more about love than someone who's known hatred be it a harelip, siamese twins, a poor man in Beverly Hills, or a black girl from White Lily, Nebraska? It sort of forces you to look at things a little differently, and in this narcissistic and beauty-conscious world, it's important to appreciate the so-called ugly, wacky side of life...garbage cans with noses, talking out-houses, women with moustaches, and harelips with an attitude.

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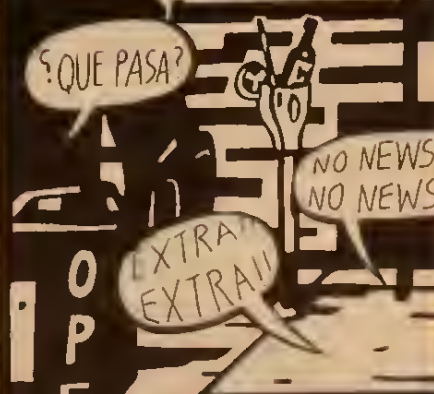
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Make My Day

by Frank Deadbeat

Well, folks, they said it couldn't be done — in fact, some said it shouldn't be done — but here it is: my fiftieth column for this paper. Wow. A literary milestone if there ever was one. How, I wonder, will our very literary city celebrate it? A parade? Will the Mayor declare a legal holiday? Present me with the key to the city? Appoint me to an honorary post in city government (like Official Sex Therapist) in recognition of the tremendous impact my column has had on the life of San Francisco?

On the morning of the anniversary I wake up all a-tingle with anticipation. Will there be an announcement on the local news? I flick the t.v. on...watch a story about a sea lion at Pier 39 who's swallowed a German tourist...another story about a recent wave of Noe Valley carjackings perpetrated by a gang of pre-schoolers who threaten motorists with their loaded diapers...on through sports and weather but there's not a single mention of me! Could all of this be part of an elaborate set-up for a huge surprise party at City Hall? Of course. That must be it.

I drink a few more cups of coffee while practicing my speech in the mirror: "Ladies and gentlemen, as a literary gadfly there is no collective horse's ass I'd rather bite than this, the Arts Establishment of our fair City By The Bay..." All the while I'm waiting for the phone to ring, expecting my congratulatory phone calls. I pick the phone up several times to make sure it's working, which it is, but still no calls. How strange.

As I make my way toward City Hall, I stay alert for the tell-tale banners, streamers and balloons I half-expect to see festooning Market Street and the Civic Center, but there's just the usual welcoming committee of homeless panhandlers and pre-cancerous pigeons...boy, I think to myself, does this city know how to stage a surprise party or what? I'd better play along, I figure, not wanting to ruin so much careful, loving preparation. Inside City Hall with the Mayor's receptionist, I act like just another crackpot citizen who's wandered in off the street.

"Do you have an appointment?" she asks, with a look of suspicion and disgust that ought to earn her an Academy Award.

"No," I smile and wink at her, "I don't, but I'm sure the ol' Jordanator will see me."

"Your name please?" As if she didn't know!

"Frank Deadbeat," I tell her.

"I beg your pardon?"

"Deadbeat! Frank Deadbeat, from the New Mission News!"

I see her push a little red button on her desk. Immediately the room is full of beefy cops, two of whom jack me up from behind and drag me kicking and farting out of the office, down the hall... "There must be a mistake!" I wail as I am drop-kicked down the marble stairs.

At last the truth begins to dawn on me as I limp home: the "establishment", artistic or civic, even in a city as liberal as this one, will not bestow its honors on someone with a moniker like "Deadbeat". My pseudonym has robbed me of the respect I am due! My pseudonym, my lowly income, personal hygiene, and certain morphological vestiges of my not-quite-human parentage, plus the fact that so many of my articles have indulged in detailed descriptions of my own bodily secretions...ok, maybe it's time to get serious, to write serious and mature articles under my own name, Frank Stauf!

I decide to see my barber, Floyd, to talk it over. Floyd is a great listener — not to mention the only barber in the city willing to trim my wart-hairs.

"Floyd, I'm telling you, I don't get no respect as 'Frank Deadbeat'."

"No, sir." He's finished with the wart-hairs; I can hear him put the wire cutters back down on the tray. "Pumice the scales on your back today, sir?"

"No, but I wouldn't mind a good foot-scraping."

"Yes, sir." As Floyd straps on a gas mask and removes my shoes and socks, I tell him, "it's been fun writing all those 'Frank Deadbeat' articles, don't get me wrong — but sometimes, when I have something more serious to say, I feel the paper should print it under my real name so it'll be taken seriously!"



He's finished with one foot; "now the other one," he says, and I proffer it.

"Which is not to say I never want to write any more 'Deadbeat' articles..."

"Very good, sir. And now your other foot."

"I mean, I'm willing to admit I'm not your average journalist—"

"Trim the tuft on your tail today?"

"Yes, Floyd, please — as I was saying, I'm not like other journalists, but if I'm ever going to get any respect in this town I'm going to have to let the readers get to know the real Frank Stauf and not just this 'Deadbeat' character I've developed as a side-show geek for the amusement of the post-punk coffee-house crowd—"

"Yes, sir. Will you be wanting your carbuncles polished?"

"Not now, Floyd. In fact, I feel like going home this very minute and writing an article about the importance of names. After what happened to me today, I see that even such dizzying universal fame as I've achieved by writing this column for the last four years can be quite empty if you're famous only as a 'Deadbeat'. Names are important, Floyd."

He tucks my tail back in my drop-seat and removes my bib. I pay him, give him an extravagant tip for being such a patient listener.


"Why thank you Mr. — Mr. — what did you say your name was again?"

"Headcheese," I tell him. "Hank Headcheese."

"Well, thank you very much, Mr. Headcheese!"

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